

The feds come marching in
SF HIV prevention officials and advocates
are critical of new CDC guidelines.

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The rainbow flag at 25
Two celebrations planned for
gay symbol's silver anniversary.

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'Girlz' get giggles
'Funny Girlz' plays
the Herbst Theatre.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Hate crime charge upheld in assault case

by Zak Szymanski

When Jack Broughton was apprehended by police on the night of August 22, 2002, he was at the Eagle Tavern, reportedly covered in blood and calling the patrons "faggots."

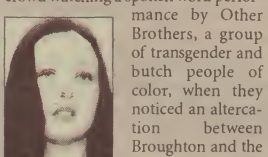
What those inside probably didn't know was that Broughton had just come from the San Francisco Drag King contest, two blocks away, at Studio ZTV, also known as the Transmission Theater, where he allegedly beat two women in what prosecutors and activists are calling a hate crime.

Broughton, of Walnut Creek, will be charged with multiple offenses, including aggravated assault, resisting arrest, and a hate crime enhancement at his arraignment on Friday, May 23 at the San Francisco Hall of Justice.

This is a victory for the LGBT community and allies, who showed up in droves during Broughton's preliminary hearing over the course of four days last week to make the statement that bias was a substantial factor in Broughton's attack and should remain a part of Broughton's criminal charges.

On Friday, May 9, Superior Court Judge John Stewart agreed, citing testimony from several witnesses who remembered Broughton using the words, "faggot," and "dyke" before and after the assault. Police Officer Andrew Meehan also recalled that the Studio ZTV bouncer, known as Thunder Fuller, told him that Broughton used antigay remarks during the assault as well.

According to the victims in the case — Yvette Balderas and Mariah Sparks — the two women were in the crowd watching a spoken word performance by Other Brothers, a group of transgender and butch people of color, when they noticed an altercation between Broughton and the bouncer. The altercation was later reported to have stemmed from Broughton's offensive behavior, including his homophobic and racist remarks to the bar's patrons.



Yvette Balderas

Witnesses told the court that as Broughton was being escorted to the door, his female companion — identified as Jean Earl — jumped toward

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Two studies support granting domestic partner rights

Caution expressed by gays on public health angle of one survey

by Matthew S. Bajko

Granting marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples would not only save California millions of dollars each year but would also serve as an important public health strategy, according to researchers.

In an as yet unpublished study, the San Francisco Sexually Transmitted Disease Control branch of the Department of Public Health found that granting civil unions may serve an important public health function by decreasing unsafe sex. Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD control and the lead author of the study, said the data shows that domestic partnership status in men who have sex with men was associated with decreased risk behaviors for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

To see if domestic partnerships could play a useful HIV and STD prevention role, the researchers analyzed data from a population-based interviewer-administered telephone survey of men who have sex with men in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago.

The study, which surveyed nearly 3,000 men between November 1996 and February 1998, found that in the prior year, a lower proportion of men in domestic partnerships reported having unsafe sex than single men or men in noncommitted relationships.

According to the study, a smaller percentage of men who were domestic partners reported multiple partnerships (43 percent), "one night stands" (36 percent), and unprotected anal intercourse with a non-primary

partner (12 percent) than men in steady relationships who were not domestic partners (81 percent, 63 percent, and 24 percent respectively) or men without a steady partner (69 percent, 61 percent, and 28 percent, respectively). The researchers found the protective effect of domestic partnership was independent of age.

The study also suggests the state could see a cost savings due to the fact that men in domestic partnerships would require less medical care. Programs such as ADAP and Medicaid, which help pay for medical care for people with HIV or AIDS, would benefit from having more men remain negative.



Granting marriage-like rights to same-sex couples could save the state money, a new study has found.

City slashes funds for substance abuse programs

by Matthew S. Bajko

As gay political leaders shine a spotlight on the widespread use of crystal in the gay community, health officials are slashing budgets to the very programs designed to deal with what many say is an epidemic.

Last week nearly 150 people attended a forum in City Hall on speed use and how it is helping to spread HIV within the gay community. Held by gay Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Tom Ammann, the forum focused attention on a problem that has been raging throughout the gay community for more than a decade.

Now, health officials have become alarmed that the use of methamphetamines by gay men is a leading cause for recent spikes in sexually transmitted diseases and HIV among gay and bisexual men.

"This drug is decimating our community,"



New Leaf director Joseph Neisen, right, meets with staff.

Dufty warned during the forum. "Crystal meth is unlike anything we have faced. It is a dastardly substance."

Yet as Dufty has prioritized the issue, 12 city-funded outpatient programs that offer substance abuse services are slated for budget reductions next year, with 11 of those programs facing 100 percent cuts in their fund-

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Second study

Preliminary results from another study that examined the fiscal impact of the domestic partnership bill show an estimated savings to the state of \$2.5 million to \$155.4 million per year, depending on the number of couples who register. The study was done by the Williams Project at the University of California of Los Angeles Law School.

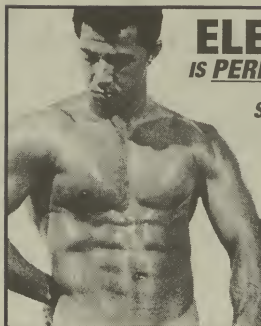
Brad Sears, a researcher with the Williams

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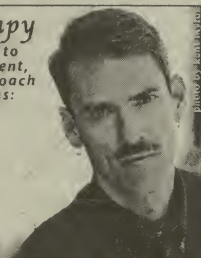
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HIV research unit's demise sparks backlash

by Zak Szymanski

The end of next month will mark the end of an era for San Francisco community-based HIV research. According to staff and other sources at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, the facility's HIVCare unit at 900 Hyde Street will stop conducting research by June 30 reportedly because of more than \$250,000 in annual financial losses.

It is a decision that may make sense on paper, but there remains a cloud of suspicion and collective anger over the department's closure, which, semantics aside, is essentially what is happening, said concerned advocates.

HIVCare director Mark Bowers told the *Bay Area Reporter* and his staff that the HIVCare unit will remain open; it is the department's research that will end.

"That is an insult," said an HIVCare employee who asked to remain anonymous, noting that the department's main function is research.

How HIVCare will function after research ends is not exactly clear, said Bowers, but he envisions a place where community members can continue to register for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program — the unit is an ADAP enrollment site — as well as access information to HIV care.

"It will be a magazine rack," is how more than one advocate phrased the department's reinvention. HIVCare will essentially operate as a referral center once research ceases, they said.

Exclusionary process?

Hospital officials did not give the community a chance to respond to any problems and keep the research department open, advocates told the *B.A.R.*, and financial losses have always been a minimal — and expected — part of conducting research.

"HIV research never makes money, so it's unusual that at this time they've decided they're tired of losing money," said the anonymous employee.

The employee also noted that other St. Francis research departments will remain active, for diseases such as melanoma. Cancer patients, however, usually come to the hospital as insured patients who bring revenue, while the HIV patients are often uninsured and poor.

"I think they're viewing the patients who participate in other research as a market," said the employee. "I don't think they want to bother with patients who won't be spending money there."

HIVCare was created in 1990 to meet the growing demand for access to experimental AIDS treatments. The department, funded in large part by the St. Francis Foundation and other sources outside the hospital, has for 13 years conducted clinical trials with an emphasis on "real-world priorities," according to promotional materials, "of people living with HIV and AIDS, their primary care physicians, and their advocates."

The unit's clinical trials have served thousands of clients, pioneering research on allogeneic cell transfer, bovine immunoglobulin in nutrition, and intranasal peptide T. And its location on the edge of the Tenderloin, combined with its outreach programs, has brought drugs and other treatments to HIV-positive populations most in need.

While its trials more recently have offered nominal sums to participants, patients said that the benefits of the trials themselves kept them coming to HIVCare.

"There were perks like free labs, which is a big benefit depending on where you are in your illness," said Jon-Edmond Abraham, a past clinical trial participant and current member of the HIVCare advisory board. "Some of those labs can be critical to someone's ability to know how to take care of himself."

It is exactly that characterization that prompted the hospital to cease research at HIVCare, said Bowers, noting that many clients were brought into the department as potential research subjects, but stayed for the information and access to care.

"Every time we screened for a given research protocol, dozens of people would show up for hundreds of subjects that all are specifically individualized, and fewer than one in every 10 people ever participated in the studies," said Bowers. When it became apparent that people were coming to HIVCare "who wanted to participate in research in order to get better care," said Bowers, "we thought, well why not just look at their care? Is it really the case that we need to be looking at next possible medicines when really the needs of the person we're looking at right now are about opportunistic infections, housing, food, and access to a good provider? What's the best way we can leverage what we do in a hospital setting for people with HIV?"

But providing HIV medical care is not an option for the hospital, at least not beyond the care already given to people who check themselves in for urgent situations, said St. Francis Chief Oper-

ating Officer Paul Craig.

Which leaves, said Bowers, continued educational outreach to the community about their healthcare and treatment options, which HIVCare had been doing for many clients already.

In the meantime, said Bowers, the department is making sure that people enrolled in studies are appropriately transferred to other facilities, conducting the same studies to ensure a seamless transition.

"We've done a damn good job of making sure these clients can access their studies elsewhere," said Bowers.

Efficient transfer of clients comes as no surprise to Abraham, who said that the HIVCare unit has always been "the bastard stepchild" of St. Francis Hospital, up and running by and for the community, but with little involvement or funding from the hospital.

"They've said that hospital reimbursements have shrunk, but that has nothing to do with research," said Abraham. "They're not saving a lot of money by closing it, they're just not hemorrhaging anymore. This wasn't a medical unit, and wasn't such a drag on hospital resources other than staffing. So to point to financial loss is a poor excuse, a red herring. This thing never made any money."

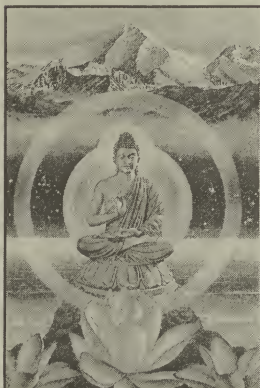
Bowers told the *B.A.R.* that proportionately, HIVCare has suffered fewer cuts than the rest of the hospital, which has seen at least 20 recent staff layoffs; HIVCare will have four layoffs, he said. Other HIVCare staffers estimated the total department to have just six members, however, including Bowers, who will continue to head the restructured department.

No matter the full story that went into the apparent surprise decision to end HIVCare's research, those involved with the department said that the loss will be felt by many.

"It wasn't part of a large research unit, and it had hospitality and individualized attention you couldn't find elsewhere," said Abraham. "It was like coming home."

Abraham, like most people upset over the HIVCare decision, said that a little community input would have gone a long way toward keeping the department open. Never, said staffers and others, was the community given the chance to raise funds to help keep the department alive.

"When a patient is dying, you resuscitate him," summarized Abraham. "You don't pronounce him dead because he's bleeding." ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gov. Davis reduces copay plan for ADAP

by Matthew S. Bajko

Faced with overwhelming opposition from providers, activists and people living with AIDS, Governor Gray Davis announced Wednesday, May 14 a reduction in his copayment proposal for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

When he released his preliminary budget in January, Davis had proposed instituting a copayment requirement for people on ADAP. Under that proposal, depending on a person's annual income levels, they would have had to pay anywhere from \$35 to \$50 per medication, costing them between \$120 to \$200 per month.

The copayment plan was an attempt to raise \$7.2 million for the ADAP program. After the lobbying effort by the AIDS community, Davis decided to reduce the copay amounts while still recouping \$5.8 million for the program.

Under the new plan, unveiled in the governor's May revised budget, the copayment levels would drop to \$5, \$10, and \$15 per medication based on annual income.

"If a person who makes \$18,000 a year or so and takes five drugs, then their copay would be \$25 a month. That is a substantial difference we think will enable people to buy their drugs, pay their rent and buy food," Eric Bauman, an openly gay special assistant to the governor, said in a press call with gay media outlets

Wednesday morning. "When the governor met with LGBT community leaders in March, everybody made clear to him, in very pointed ways, how difficult it is for someone who makes \$18,000 a year to pay copays. As a result, the governor dramatically changed the copay proposal."

In addition, the ADAP budget has been increased from \$186 million to \$195 million. The increase is due to rebates that several states and AIDS agencies were able to broker with drug companies.

"Over the course of the last five months, through our engagement with AIDS service providers and folks up and down the state, we took into consideration the most serious complaints and issues folks raised," said Bauman. "I think we have made it better. This is still a difficult budget; the shortfall has not gone away. But we have made it less painful and ensured the greatest number of people will be able to receive care."

There is still a chance that the copayments will not go into effect. Openly gay Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) is circulating a letter among lawmakers to kill the copayment proposal. So far nine legislators have signed on, and Laird expects to gather more support in the coming weeks.

As for the governor's latest proposal, Laird said, "these are steps in the right direction but I still want to work to eliminate a copay and fully fund program growth for next year."

It is estimated ADAP needs an additional \$13 to \$14 million in order to meet growing demands on the program. In addition, lawmakers would need to find the money lost from abandoning the copay option.

Where those funds would come from remains to be seen. When asked, Laird said, "I am trying to hesitate from saying it doesn't matter where."

"I will say this: I have been working with the advocates over the last three months and I intend to mobilize everyone over the next six weeks to make sure there is the right outcome," he added.

During a phone conference with reporters last month, Michael Montgomery, chief of the state's Office of AIDS, said it did not appear there was support in the Legislature for the copayment plan.

"Certainly the advocates have been very vocal about those proposals and have a receptive audience in the Legislature," Montgomery said. "I am not sure where it will go but I think the Legislature is looking for alternatives."

The Legislature will begin to address the budget proposals in the coming weeks. Because of pressure from Wall Street and state employees who face pay cuts if lawmakers do not pass a budget in time, it is expected that the Legislature will finalize its budget plan by July. Though in years past budget negotiations have dragged late into the fall months. ▼

Center names new director

by Joe Dignan

The San Francisco LGBT Community Center has hired Thom Lynch, currently the deputy executive director of Project Open Hand, as its new executive director after a four-month search.

Lynch, who is openly gay, replaces Brian Cheu, who served for less than a year after the center's opening in March 2002. The announcement was made Wednesday, May 14.

Lynch, 43, faces several challenges as he assumes his new job. As the *Bay Area Reporter* has previously reported, the center is swimming in red ink. It has lost \$642,000 since last July; has a \$2.3 million bank debt; has just let go about a third of its staff; is fighting lawsuits by the contractors who built it, who say they haven't



Thom Lynch

been paid; and is dipping into its building fund pledges to pay daily operating expenses.

Lynch said he has seen the center's financials and vowed to turn the center around. He said that he expects that approximately half of

his time will be devoted to fundraising.

"Within a year, we'll be in good shape," he said.

Lynch will be paid \$105,000 annually. According to board co-chair Scott Wiener, the center's annualized budget is currently fixed at approximately \$1.3 million.

Both Lynch and the center's board said he has had significant fundraising experience. He has been the deputy executive director at Project Open Hand for six years. Project Open Hand is a much larger organization than the center, with a \$9 million annual budget, of which Lynch said he was responsible for \$7 million.

Lynch pledged to involve the community in the strategic planning process for the center, which has struggled to find a mission in the crowded world of San Francisco nonprofits. It has a new 40,000

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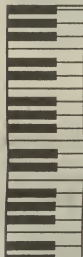
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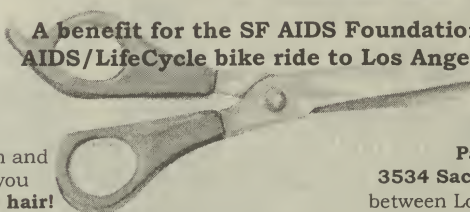
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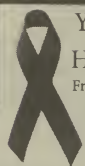
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Fallen gay officer honored

by Cynthia Laird

The name of San Francisco Police Officer Jon C. Cook was added to the "Wall of Honor" Monday, May 12, as the department joined in paying tribute to one of its own. Cook, 38, died last June 12 from injuries he sustained in a collision involving two marked police cars. He was the first openly gay cop killed in the line of duty.

The Wall of Honor, on the first floor of the Hall of Justice, contains the names of SFPD officers who have died in the line of duty. Cook's name is the first to be added in more than two years.

During a ceremony Monday afternoon attended by dozens of police officers, acting Chief Alex Fagan Sr. praised the fallen officer, and made mention of Cook's partner, Jared Strawderman, who was sitting in the front row alongside Cook's parents and family members.

"It's always sad for us to lose an officer in the line of duty," Fagan said. "I can only imagine the great things he would have achieved. There is no real way to ease the pain of his partner, Jared, and his family."

Cook's family and Strawderman were presented with a photo-



Jon Cook Sr. cries after touching his son's name on the SFPD's "Wall of Honor" during Monday's ceremony.

graph of the wall, a plaque from Mission Station, where Cook worked, and a purple heart award that was given posthumously.

Mission Station Captain Greg Corrales, who supervised Cook, also spoke, mentioning that Cook's name is the 20th to be added to the wall since Corrales joined the department in 1969.

"We grieved for Jon last June, but really, today is a day to honor him and remember him," Corrales said. "He wanted to catch bad guys."

Sergeant Chuck Limbert, a close friend of Cook's and the gay

liaison from Mission Station, also addressed the audience and spoke of going to Sacramento last week for a similar tribute. On May 9, Governor Gray Davis presided over a ceremony in the state Capitol for the nine California peace officers who gave their lives last year in the line of duty; Cook was one of those honored.

In a brief interview following Monday's ceremony, Strawderman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he too, went to Sacramento. Strawderman said it has been a difficult year for him and for Cook's family. ▼

Putting the 'T' in community

by Zak Szymanski

From the stealth to the genderqueer, transgenders are part of a diverse group and can often be divided along political lines, pronoun preferences, and generational identities.

Hoping to bridge those gaps are two upcoming events that seek to give visibility to the transgender community at large.

Transgender picnic

The first-ever "Transgender Picnic" will be held Sunday, May 18, from noon-5 p.m. in Dolores Park. Presented by United Genders of the Universe, Kithology, and GenderEnders, the event is a potluck and performance festival "for all genders, ages, hormone levels, and anatomies," according

to organizers.

Performers include Vinsantos, Shawna Virago, Solidad Decosta, Lynnee Breedlove, Larrybob, Julia Serano, Transformers, Thea Hillman, Storm Florez, Daphne Gottlieb, The Northamericans, Burlesque-esque, Transcendence Gospel Choir, Katastrophe, Disposable Boy Toys, DJ Spike, DJ Beet, DJ Sam, DJ Molly S, and MC Fairy Butch.

Activities include a clothing swap, complete with patch and adornment sewing opportunities with The Crafty Bitches; games like volleyball, wrestling, kickball; and areas for face painting, dancing, and the genderfuck beauty salon. Guests are invited to bring a blanket, and a food contribution for the potluck, as well as their own fun and games. The picnic is free and open to all.

Tranny Fest benefit

Back again this November will be "Tranny Fest," the world-famous film, video, and culture showcase for transgenders.

To raise money for this week-long extravaganza, organizers are hosting "Lesfest" on Thursday, May 22, at the Eagle Tavern. The hard rocking benefit features Von Iva; Shawna Virago & The Deadly Nightshade Family; Candy From Strangers; Frozen Chicken Patties; Tribe 8; and others. The event will also benefit and showcase Thu Ha Vu's next film, an educational glimpse into the massage parlor workers of the Tenderloin.

The music begins at 8 p.m. and admission is \$7-\$20 sliding scale. More information is available at www.trannyfest.com. ▼

TARC's spring benefit set for May 21

by Cynthia Laird

The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center will host its spring fundraiser Wednesday, May 21 at the new Bambuddah Lounge in San Francisco.

TARC provides health and

housing services for homeless and marginally housed residents of the Tenderloin.

The Bambuddah Lounge is hosting the benefit as part of its grand opening celebration, and will offer what organizers called "sumptuous cuisine, cocktails, and sultry sounds in an exotic, Far

Eastern setting." The lounge is located in the Phoenix Hotel, 601 Eddy Street at Larkin, in the Tenderloin neighborhood.

The event will take place from 7-10 p.m. and TARC is requesting a donation of \$50 per person. For more information, call (415) 241-2545. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Defense attorney says masturbation led to bi Salinas man's murder

by Ed Walsh

An attorney for one of the three defendants accused of murdering a bisexual Salinas man said that the incident resulting in the man's death began when the victim, Robert Maricle, masturbated in front of the 5-year-old daughter of one of the defendants.

Bud Landreth, the attorney for Dominique England, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the incident that ended in Maricle's death began on December 14 during a night of "partying, drinking, and dope." Landreth said that according to the police reports, Maricle masturbated in front of the daughter of Jeanne Marie Soja, sparking an incident that resulted in his death.

Soja, 29, England, 23, and a third suspect, Daymon Schrock, 20, were arrested one month ago after an informant took police to an undisclosed rural location in north Monterey County where Maricle's decomposed body was found.

Assistant Monterey County District Attorney Berkeley Brannon told the *B.A.R.* that the only substantiation that Maricle masturbated in front of a child stems

from statements made by the defendants themselves.

"It's more than just that," countered Landreth in the interview with the *B.A.R.* this week, but the defense attorney said he could not elaborate.

The assistant district attorney also responded to a report in *The Californian* newspaper that Maricle was arrested and spent time in jail in 1995 on suspicion he had unlawful sex with a 15-year-old girl. Brannon said he did not know if that report was accurate but it would be irrelevant to the charges against the defendants.

Landreth, who referred to the 5-foot-11-inch Maricle as a "pathetic little man," said that he was first informed about Maricle's record by a reporter and that he would be investigating it. Maricle's mother has said that her son suffered from severe attention deficit disorder and had the mind of a teenager.

Hinting of what may be another defense strategy, Landreth told the *B.A.R.* that his client England suffers from attention deficit disorder and has a long history of mental illness.

"Literally, since he was an infant, he's had severe behavior problems," Landreth explained.

The attorney said that in addition to ADD, England was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Landreth added that he is investigating England's mental health history in preparation for a preliminary hearing on July 15.

All three defendants are being charged with murder only. They have all pleaded not guilty. Initially, police also charged them with kidnapping, conspiracy, and torture and said all three were guilty of a hate crime because they believed Maricle's sexual orientation was a motive for the killing. Police believe Schrock is a member of a white supremacist gang and said that England may also have an association with the gang.

Brannon said that although there may be "probable cause" to arrest the suspects on hate crime charges, there is not enough evidence to prove the charge beyond a reasonable doubt. Brannon noted that conspiracy will not be prosecuted because it doesn't add any more of a penalty beyond homicide. He added that kidnapping likely will not be charged either because the evidence doesn't show that Maricle was taken a substantial distance with the intent to harm him. ▼

CA Supreme Court set to rule for gay adoptions

by Matthew S. Bajko

After the California Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that will determine the rights of gay and lesbian parents, the justices seemed poised to rule in favor of second-parent adoptions.

The procedure allows gays and lesbians to adopt the children of their partners but its legality has been challenged by a lesbian trying to end her partner's custody petition for her child.

The case, *Sharon S. v. the Superior Court of San Diego County*, began when Sharon's partner, Annette, filed a petition for second-parent adoption of their youngest son, Joshua. Annette had already adopted Sharon's other son Zachary and was in the midst of adopting Joshua when the two women ended their relationship.

The breakup came shortly before the adoption was finalized, and Sharon attempted to get the court to dismiss the adoption petition. When the court refused, Sharon appealed to the California Court of Appeal. On appeal, Sharon argued not only that the adoption should not be granted, but that the court should rule that all second-parent adoptions are invalid.

The Court of Appeal agreed and decided not only that Annette could not proceed with her petition, but also that second-parent adoptions generally are not valid in California. On January 28, 2002, the California Supreme Court agreed to review the deci-

sion of the Court of Appeal. The fate of second-parent adoptions has been in question ever since.

As the case has moved through the courts, California enacted AB25, the domestic partners bill pushed by then-Assemblywoman Carole Migden. The law permits lesbian and gay domestic partners to use the step-parent adoption process, easing the fears of gay parents across the state who had feared the court case could result in the dissolution of their parental rights.

But even with the passage of AB25, gay rights advocates have worried that a ruling invalidating the use of second-parent adoption could have severe national consequences and impact some families in California who, for a host of reasons, are not able or willing to register as domestic partners but who still wish to both be legal parents.

Before a packed courthouse on Wednesday, May 7, lawyers for both sides argued their points to the justices, who appeared to be leaning in favor of upholding the adoption procedure.

Charles Bird, counsel for Annette, argued that trial courts should continue to have the flexibility to grant second-parent adoptions in appropriate cases.

Chief Justice Ronald M. George seemed to agree, stating trial judges should determine "the best interest of the child."

Judith Klein, a lawyer representing Sharon's son Joshua in the case, told the court that all previously granted second-parent adoptions should be invalidated. Gay rights advocates assailed the

comment as ignorant.


"This absurd and offensive notion completely fails to appreciate the devastating consequences of such an outcome and is either rooted in profound ignorance or outright prejudice," said Kate Kendell, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights after the hearing. "It was a shameful moment but fortunately the court did not seem at all persuaded that such an outcome was necessary or correct."

The court is expected to announce its decision within 90 days. ▼




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OPEN FORUM

The will of the voters

The fate of Care Not Cash (Proposition N on last November's ballot) was handed squarely to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors when Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay ruled last week that voters cannot set welfare standards. Voters had approved the initiative, which was spearheaded by Supervisor Gavin Newsom, after becoming fed up with the total lack of responsibility exhibited by the board in handling the city's homeless problem. Newsom, now running for mayor partly on the strength of Proposition N's success at the ballot box, was given something of a pass by the judge's ruling as he won't have to take the criticism that likely would have emerged during the implementation of Care Not Cash this summer, just as the mayoral race heats up.

But now that the judge has ruled Care Not Cash illegal, Newsom has taken his plan back to the board and has urged them to adopt it. The voters have spoken, Newsom says, and they clearly want homeless reform. Proposition N would reduce general assistance checks to some homeless people from a high of \$320 a month to \$59 with the guarantee of in-kind services such as food, shelter, and treatment for alcohol and substance abuse.

The ruling affects only those able-bodied people who refuse to join job training programs covered by general assistance. There are other categories of homeless people, including the elderly, the disabled, and people in job training programs. It is the state-funded general assistance category that the lawsuit addressed.

On Tuesday, Supervisor Chris Daly unveiled his own homeless plan, which calls for restoring the measure only if the city provides SRO hotel rooms and other types of housing along with the services. Newsom's plan provides for housing mainly in homeless shelters. Both of these competing plans would include reductions in welfare checks to implement the housing component.

The board has had years to develop a homeless plan, and nothing has happened. Now, the supervisors find themselves under pressure from the majority of voters who approved Proposition N, and, suddenly, all

these plans come forward.

And it's not just the supervisors. Candidates running against Newsom for mayor are also feeling the pressure. Candidate and former Supervisor Angela Alioto announced Tuesday morning, just hours before the board meeting, that she will be introducing "San Francisco Cares," what she called "a comprehensive homeless plan" that "builds on the effective concepts of Care Not Cash."

Notably, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who's also running for mayor, was absent from Tuesday's board meeting. We haven't heard much from him since the judge's ruling. Last year he had a competing homeless plan on the ballot that was roundly defeated at the polls.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, a previous opponent of Care Not Cash, now backs the will of the voters. Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval joined McGoldrick Tuesday in co-

sponsoring Newsom's original Care Not Cash. Supervisor Aaron Peskin is also reportedly on board. In the aftermath of last week's court decision, it seems that some supervisors are getting the message.

If Proposition N's passage demonstrated anything, it was that voters throughout the city are desperate for a solution to the homeless mess. The initiative passed in all but two supervisorial districts. Newsom was forced to take the plan to the voters after numerous attempts at getting some sort of homeless reform approved by the board went nowhere.

During the campaign for Proposition N, supporters, including this newspaper, correctly pointed out that Care Not Cash was a first step, not a comprehensive solution.

We don't need more plans and more bureaucratic stonewalling. The city has a plan that was thoroughly debated last year, and approved by nearly 60 percent of the voters. It's time for the board to listen to those voters and pass Newsom's Care Not Cash measure. ▼



Editorial



The Internet president

by Paul Hogan

In early March, I attended a meeting to discuss the candidacy of former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, M.D. for president of the United States. No campaign staffer telephoned to alert me about the event, nor had I received a postcard in the mail. I had signed up with Meetup.com, the online service that provided the framework to allow supporters of Dr. Dean around the country to select local meeting locations and get together. When I arrived at the location I joined a group of two dozen people, committed supporters and Dean-curious alike, ready to talk about how to get involved and get organized for the 2004 elections that are more than a year away.

Attending an organic meeting for an unknown long shot candidate was a first for me and marked a new phenomenon for presidential campaign organizing. With the rapid growth of the meetup groups, the Dean for America campaign quickly realized that it could build a national grassroots operation by tapping the enthusiasm of local supporters and guiding the formation of local groups. This use of the Internet has helped advance Howard Dean to the top tier of Democratic contenders and is making him the candidate to watch in the presidential primaries next year.

With each major advance in mass media in the last hundred years, a statesman has embraced the medium and used it to reach people more effectively. In the 1930s, Franklin D. Roosevelt soothed the nation with his fireside chats on the radio. In 1960, television helped propel John F. Kennedy past the untelegenic Richard Nixon. Even in 1992, Bill Clinton used satellite uplinks and cable television to aid his "rapid response" strategy.

Likewise, Howard Dean has emerged as the master of the Internet campaign. With its grassroots base expanding by 200 people per day, the Dean campaign has assisted by posting "meetup kits" on its Web site, DeanForAmerica.com, to help the local organizers host successful meetings. They also feature a repository of campaign fliers that grassroots activists can download and use for visibility work as well as video and audio files available online to allow folks to get better informed about Governor Dean and his policies. Dean for America has an official online weblog to chronicle day-to-day events and news from the campaign trail, a first for a presidential campaign.

Howard Dean's embrace of Internet technology has up-ended conventional wisdom. Instead of remaining a largely unknown candidate, Dr. Dean is getting national news coverage and word-of-mouth support around the country — much of it for his grassroots organizing success. Online donations helped Dean raise \$2.6 million in the first quarter, exceeding his goal by over a million dollars and making his totals comparable to those of better-known candidates. In large part due to this surge of support, Dean is now running even in polls with Massachusetts Senator John Kerry for the top spot in next year's New Hampshire primary.

Most importantly, the phenomenon of Internet organizing takes the focus of campaigning back to its roots of person-to-person contact. Contrary to the image of shut-in techies holed up in their dark offices, this aspect of the Internet helps foster personal relationships by getting to meet face-to-face with other like-minded people. Many of the 23,000 people nationwide who signed up to attend Dean meetups have never helped a

campaign before and are excited to get involved in the political process for the first time. The Dean campaign has provided them with the necessary resources to channel their enthusiasm for Dean — or anger toward the Bush administration — and get that message out to their communities.

As a Democrat, I know my party has scarce hope to compete dollar-for-dollar with Republicans and their promise to spend \$200 million to re-elect Bush in 2004. The only way we can win is to change the game, get personal again, and rebuild those connections within our communities. If Howard Dean becomes the Democratic Party nominee for president, he will have a national organization of thousands of committed volunteers to help get his message out in a way that does not rely on a huge campaign war chest or favorable treatment from the national media.

For that reason the efforts of Howard Dean's campaign to organize supporters online should be seen as a model for Democrats everywhere. With 165 million Americans projected to be online this year and more embracing the technology every day, this represents a cost-effective way of fomenting the growth of a national movement.

Howard Dean is leveraging the power of the World Wide Web in ways never before seen in presidential politics. His effective use of these new tools is helping Democrats get organized and is giving them renewed hope to overtake Bush in 2004. ▼

Paul Hogan, a campaign technology consultant, also serves as technology chair and is a past president of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Regarding syphilis, sex, and sanctions

Beginning the article "State regulators investigate SOMA bars" (May 8) with a paragraph referencing recent increases in the city's syphilis rates implies some possible connection. As an 18-year resident of San Francisco I am very weary of reading how some city regulatory board or official (usually, but not always, someone other than a gay man) is investigating our "questionable" sex lives. I have worked in the field of public health research around HIV since 1989 and have counseled thousands of people around transmission issues and their HIV status as well as other sexually transmitted diseases. I have yet to understand how these phobia-tinged raids and closures do anything to stop the transmission of STDs.

People do not stop having the sex that they have because you close down the place that they're in at the moment. We change our habits because we decide at some point that it is something that we want to change in our life and feel it is actually viable in the context of our life. Even then, it can be a long and difficult process to change one's sexual behaviors. Until then, is it not better to work with people where we have at least some access to them? This idea that cracking down on an establishment or group in society will stop them from having a form of sex that "you" don't want them to have needs to end. It doesn't work. And it's not appropriate. Period.

Raiding lesbian and gay bars in the past and beating their patrons didn't stop gay people from existing or having homo sex. Raping, demeaning, and assaulting sex workers or closing massage parlors doesn't stop sex work. And trying to follow gay men around currently figuring out where they're having sex (implying that it's bad), and trying to impose sanctions on such establishments has a lot to do with sexphobia and probably sour grapes on some individual's part who reported it. It has nothing to do with solid, sensible public health policy. The individuals who were having sex in those environs will just move on to another place, less known, more underground, and more unreachable. How does that help? To help from a public health standpoint, it would be much more beneficial to find out more information about what works for them and what doesn't from the folks having sex there — on their terms.

But I suspect that public health isn't what any of this is ever about. That's just a very thin veil for the sexphobia, homophobia, sexual frustration, etc. that motivates people to try to tell people what they should be doing in their world rather than keeping their own house in order. It's tiresome, and shouldn't be acceptable at this point in time.

And I'm very tired of gay men acting like they "agree" with those "values" against public or casual sex, only to run into them at Blow Buddies or with their face in a lap in the gym steam room. C'mon guys, we all know guys have sex in bars sometimes (and gyms, bookstores, alleys, etc.). That's not news and it's not up for debate. If it's disease transmission that's of concern, then let's do what's most practical. If it's judgment, or sour grapes over what you didn't get, save it for Sunday brunch.

(And nothing here is in any way aimed at the staffs of the establishments involved. I am fully aware that they are bound to try and cooperate with the ABC and have no say in those rules.)

Paul Kilfoil
San Francisco

No predictions at Milk Club

I was pleased that your reporter covered the recent Harvey Milk Club mayoral forum where candidates Susan Leal and Angela Alioto made presentations and answered questions from members ("Giving their all to be #2," May 8). It was well attended, with an overflow room of passionate and interested participants quizzing two fine candidates for mayor.

While it is still early, it is my strong sense that Milk Club members are overwhelmingly supporting the most well-known, experienced, compassionate, and effective candidate running for mayor: Tom Ammiano. There is no candidate who better represents all that is special about San Francisco. An openly gay man who has never been afraid to be himself, Ammiano has championed the causes of children, working people, LGBT people, people of color, small business, the environment, consumers, tenants and many others throughout his years of public service. Ammiano is one of the two front-runners in this race, and I am confident most voters will understand in November that it is Ammiano who has their best interests at heart.

I therefore was disappointed to read your reporter's unfounded speculation that Milk members "know that their first choice endorsement can afford to be symbolic, so long as their second choice fares well." Unlike some political clubs, the Milk Club does not predict the winner and endorse that person in the hopes of getting its members appointed to boards and commissions. Milk members always endorse the candidate they feel is best for the job. If Ammiano gets

the endorsement as I expect, our endorsement also will support the candidate best positioned to become the next mayor of San Francisco.

Jerry Threet
San Francisco

Women's Building responds

We are writing in response to your recent article on community centers in SF ("Other LGBT centers do it differently," May 8). Firstly, the B.A.R. has always been very supportive of the Women's Building, and we are very appreciative of the coverage that you have given us.

We wanted to take this opportunity to clarify some of the points made about the Women's Building in this recent article. In particular, we wanted to emphasize several points:

1) The Women's Building is doing fine, both programmatically and financially; we continue to offer a variety of services, programs, and resources to the community. We have a strong leadership team, both staff and board, as well as a core of dedicated volunteers who enable us to engage in programs that meet the needs of our community. We are evaluating and revising these services to meet the needs of those hit the hardest in these tough economic times: low-income women and their families and recent immigrants, many of whom are heads of single parent households. We offer job training and resources, financial management workshops, free drop in childcare and a variety of other resources that addresses the needs of these vulnerable populations.

2) The staff and board are fully aware of the challenges ahead caused by the economic situation. As we enter our 25th year, we are working to address these challenges in creative and proactive ways. It is not a secret that this economy has had an adverse impact on non-profit organizations throughout the Bay Area, not just the Women's Building, or the LGBT center. The situation has affected many facets of philanthropy; foundations, many of whom are dependent upon income generated through the stock market, have scaled back their support significantly, individuals have been impacted by the economic downturn and have likewise pared down their donations, and federal, state, and local budgets are all being cut, resulting in reduced support for agencies who receive government funding.

3) Women's Building leadership has created a financial strategy that ensures our fiscal well-being. We receive diversified income from a variety of sources, and our bedrock of support is from our donors, many of who have been with us for years. Other significant revenue is generated from both long-term tenants and temporary rentals of our space. We also have a fiscal sponsorship program to nurture emerging initiatives (our Sponsored Projects Program), and generate grant income through our own programs, such as the Community Resource Room and collaborative efforts with other nonprofits. Through this combination of revenue stream, we have been able stay financially stable.

So, in conclusion, we approach our 25th year in strong shape, both fiscally and programmatically. Of course, we need the continuing financial support of the community to address the challenges that we, and many other Bay Area institutions, face in the coming year.

Thank you again for your coverage of the Women's Building and the issues that are important to the community we serve.

Teresa Mejia, Executive Director
Susan King, Development Director
The Women's Building

Athletes got cold shoulder from center

I am so discouraged to read about the LGBT Community Center's financial woes in the B.A.R. ("Fiscal woes engulf LGBT center," April 17, and "LGBT center deficit is \$642K," May 1).

Yes, the center needs funding, visitors, programs, assistance, leadership ... no matter where you stand on the issues, there are lots of "needs." And most of them involve some sort of financing.

However, some of the folks who have worked in the administration of the center have been short-sighted, or ignored creative offers of assistance, beyond the act of cashing a check or swiping a credit card.

I work with a 15-year-old, nonprofit (501)(c)(3) LGBT sports organization in San Francisco. While we operate on very little money, we have represented as many as 1,000 area athletes at each of the quadrennial Gay Games. In an effort to maintain our name recognition between the Games, we have been trying to host more events locally. What better place than our brand new LGBT center?

So, we paid the fees and hosted a fundraiser in May 2002 at the center, but discovered that we could hold a similar event in March 2003 at a Castro area bar for

next page ►

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free, with less frustration and greater results.

And before my dedication to the center is challenged, I have been to a number of events at the center. I have taken the center tour at least three times (even inviting our organization's members on one during construction). I have hosted and participated in fundraisers. I have been to an art exhibit at the center, as well as a "speed dating" event. I am not in there every week, but I go there often.

All that to say, it is impossible for me to communicate with the center. Calls go unreturned, and requests for information are ignored.

Last fall, I volunteered materials for a Gay Games 20th anniversary display — one uniform from each of the Games, as well as photos, medals, and sports equipment. Since San Francisco is the "Athens of the Gay Games," what better place than our center to have a display of memorabilia? It was to be announced in the local gay papers and could have increased LGBT athlete foot traffic to the center.

Offer made, offer ignored.

Additionally, a Gay Games-related event, the International Rainbow Memorial Run, which takes place quadrennially before each of the Gay Games, was held last fall in San Francisco. In working with the organizers of the run, we had hoped it could start at the center with a press conference for the local media. The center would have been a great backdrop to the event, which was to start on the sidewalk in front of the building.

We imagined our 20-year-old rainbow flag, which had been carried into the Opening Ceremonies for each of the Gay Games, displayed at the center before the run. Once the event began, the flag would be carried up Market Street by participants as they begin their memorial run in remembrance of LGBT athletes lost to AIDS and breast cancer.

Foot traffic to the center would have increased as well by the display of an AIDS quilt panel honoring these lost athletes, with the opportunity for visitors to add the names of friends lost to the square.

Offer made, offer ignored.

How frustrating.

Ross Hayduk
San Francisco

Saving the center

Suppose you could save the center with your individual membership. For less than the cost of a few beers in a bar, you can turn around a situation that should never have happened.

Although the economy can be blamed for the financial problems at the LGBT center, the real problem is a lack of community participation and membership. Too many people thought that someone else would make it all happen. Unfortunately, there is no "they" at the center or anywhere in San Francisco. That is not the bad news; because it means that each of us can make it happen.

As a longtime queer activist here in San Francisco, I know that each of us must act as if the success of the center rested solely on each of our shoulders. I write this letter in that spirit; just as I volunteered at the center since it opened for the same reason.

On your next day off, go to the center and purchase a membership to demonstrate your support for an ideal community center. Volunteer and began to shape the center according to your dreams. I have seen the three other centers come and go. Let's make it work this time.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

Critical of center coverage

Regarding the front-page, and may I say scathing, articles about the LGBT Community Center ["Fiscal woes engulf LGBT center," April 17, and "LGBT center deficit is \$642K," May 1], it's about time that somebody spoke up.

As a member of this great institution to the city of San Francisco and a friend of many past and present employees, I am disgusted that a paper that is supposedly a publication for the LGBT community would allow such bad journalism, especially on its front page. I know for a fact that many of the points written about are just plain untrue.

It is true that the center has had some difficulties since its inaugural in its current location just over a year ago. However, these difficulties are not uncommon in the current financial climate. Nonprofits in general have been hit hard during the economic downturn and since the center opened its doors during one of the most difficult times, they certainly were not immune. The center has and is doing everything in its power to balance certain issues while at the same time offer this community a world-class meeting place where all people can feel safe and be proud of. I have participated in many events and have not only had fun but have met new people and reconnected with others — this is what a community center should

be about. At the same time the board is doing the work to keep the center fiscally responsible.

I would encourage the Bay Area Reporter to reach out to the community to support the LGBT center and many other nonprofits that are facing economic difficulties instead of allowing these wonderful services to be unfairly blasted. In a city like San Francisco, such reporting could make or break an organization that is only trying to benefit its community and members. I for one am very proud to live in this city and very proud of what the LGBT center has done for San Francisco even during such trying times.

Michael John Rizzo
San Francisco

Newsom in the Castro

As a Castro resident, I was offended by mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom's staged parade through our neighborhood earlier this month.

As far as I could tell, most of the people with him did not live in the neighborhood and were not gay. A woman named Joan who handed me a flier told me she was a straight woman who had come up from Palo Alto!

What was more disturbing, however, was the disrespect showed by Newsom and his volunteers to our community. Newsom himself seemed only to duck in and duck out of stores without having any real conversations with merchants or voters, and he didn't actually stay in the neighborhood very long.

His imported volunteers blocked the street, making it difficult for seniors, dog walkers, and people with children to pass without harassment. They were visibly rude to the volunteers of another candidate — Susan Leal — who were present on the streets as well. I was appalled by their misuse of our rainbow pride flag emblazoned with Newsom's name. Surely, Harvey Milk is turning over in his grave at this mockery of our community and our symbols.

In contrast, Susan Leal's local volunteers were respectful of others and handed out useful information about her impressive background and sensible positions. Susan is from our community. From her leadership on the Board of Supervisors as co-author of the equal benefits ordinance to her proven financial expertise as city treasurer, Susan Leal is the best qualified candidate to lead us through these tough financial times and get our local economy moving again.

Chris Braun
San Francisco

Some help on Santorum

I read Paula Martinac's column in the Bay Area Reporter ["Where are our allies," *Lesbian Notions*, May 8], and I just wanted to let you know as a member of the Japanese American Citizens League, our group president has spoken against what Senator Rick Santorum said. You can see on the crawl message (wait a second or two) that JACL has denounced Santorum at www.jacl.org.

I myself wrote Santorum and Bush. Little good it will do, but I expressed my concerns.

I enjoyed the column; hang in there.

Doug Clark
South San Francisco, California

When in Athens ...

Mr. Santorum has stated that no country has ever sanctioned homosexual unions.

Has he heard of Athens? As Plutarch reminds us, there was an annual ceremony in the Agora where lovers pledged their devotion to each other. And in the center of the Agora stood the statues of the Tyrannicides, Harmodius, and Aristogiton, regarded by Athenians as the "founding lovers" of Athenian democracy. As Aeschines said of them, "...the benefactors of our city...were molded by a decent and upright love and inclination, call it what you will; molded into such fine examples that those who praise their deeds can never do justice to their accomplishments."

And in the mural of lawgivers in the U.S. Supreme Court, there stands Solon of Athens, with Moses and Mohammed. We know at least one of them had a boyfriend.

As Mr. Santorum strolls down the mall, surrounded by buildings inspired by Greek architecture, past the Museum of Science and Technology (aren't those Greek words?), with the Kennedy Center for the Arts in the background, (wasn't the first thing the Christians did in Athens shut the theaters? Or was that the day after they cut down the trees in the groves of Academe? Sad days for philosophy and drama! More Greek words.) he might reflect that even if it was only one country, he's living in it.

As Athena promised, the Greeks will rule all of the world where the grape and the olive grow. Thanks to the wonders of science, we can now grow both from the realm of the polar bear to that of the penguins.

Long live the Goddess! Long live Athenian values! Invented by guys with boyfriends.

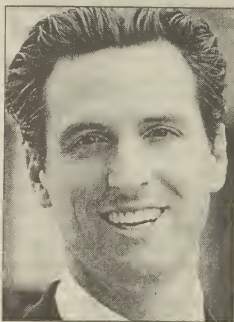
David John Pini
San Francisco

POLITICS

Supervisors should heed voters on Prop. N

by Wayne Friday

When San Francisco Superior Court Judge **Ronald Quidachay** ruled last week that Care Not Cash (Proposition N) was illegal and that only county officials or other elected bodies, and not the voters, can set welfare standards for the homeless, he probably unwittingly did Supervisor and mayoral candidate **Gavin Newsom** a huge political favor.



Supervisor Gavin Newsom

Newsom, the sponsor of CNC, which passed last November with the support of 60 percent of those San Franciscans voting, can now rightfully turn to his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and say: "Hey, at least I tried—what are the rest of you offering?"

Indeed, it is time for those who are now quietly gloating that the court tossed Proposition N, and who are threatening to ignore the will of the voters, to either "put up or shut up" on the still-growing homeless issue in this city. So, let's just take a quick look at where those on the board stand as it pertains to Proposition N, the only solution even offered (other than the lame Proposition O) by any of the other supervisors.

Supervisor **Bevan Duffy** (District 8) supports Proposition N, as does a clear majority of those in his Castro-Noe Valley District (he's the only one so far who stands with Newsom on N).

Tom Ammiano (District 9) comes from one of the two districts out of 11 citywide that voted against Proposition N last year. True, Ammiano did offer Proposition O, a catch-up plan that was fashioned to try to offset CNC but it was rejected by voters. Even if Ammiano claims that he represents his district if he votes against implementing Proposition N, he, as a candidate for mayor, surely has to look at how the rest of the city voted. Ammiano should simply admit that the voters citywide want to at least try Proposition N and vote to implement it, but he won't. He surely must know that his campaign for mayor will suffer as a result of his ignoring the 60 percent of the city who wants to try the plan.

Supervisor **Chris Daly** (District 6) is a much better supervisor that he was the first two years he spent on the board when he was more interested in creating controversy and acting like a spoiled child, but he was safely re-elected last November. Don't look for him to pay attention to the majority (53 percent) of the voters in his district who voted for Proposition N. This week he pre-

sented his own plan.

Supervisor **Aaron Peskin** (District 3) is one of the board's hardest-working members, but he personally dislikes Newsom and you can expect him to ignore the 64 percent of District 3 voters who voted for CNC last year. Peskin, incidentally, is up for re-election next year. This week he signed on as a co-sponsor of Newsom's plan.

Supervisor **Tony Hall** (District 7) told the media last week that he "feels that the people should have the last word." In a press release dated May 9, Hall appeared to offer conditional support for the measure when it goes to hearings.

Supervisor **Jake McGoldrick** (District 1) represents a district that voted by more than 60 percent in favor of CNC. Despite railing against CNC last year, it appears that McGoldrick has seen the light. This week he has signed on as a co-sponsor to CNC.

Supervisor **Fiona Ma** (District 4) comes from a district that voted overwhelmingly (64 percent) in favor of Proposition N. Ma is supporting Daly's proposal.

Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell** (District 10) was safely re-elected last year and probably doesn't have to listen to the majority (52 percent) of those in her district who voted to implement CNC. This week she announced she's supporting Daly's plan.

Supervisor **Gerardo Sandoval** (District 11) comes from a district that voted by nearly 58 percent in favor of CNC. This week he co-sponsored CNC along with McGoldrick.

As for board President **Matt Gonzalez**, his District 5 was the only other district that voted against CNC, but, as politically astute as I think he is (and yes, I still believe he's the smartest guy on the board) don't look for him to do anything except, like Ammiano, Daly, Hall, and others, try to water down Proposition N to the point it doesn't even look like what the people voted for last year.

Now for a look at how some of the mayoral candidates are viewing last week's developments.

When this column mentioned a few months back that mayoral candidate **Angela Alioto** had yet to come up with a plan to solve the homeless problem, she dusted off a plan that she wrote back in 1996 when she was president of the Board of Supervisors and forwarded it to me. Well, thanks, Angela, but we're facing a much bigger problem now than we were seven years ago. And, yes, we're still waiting for Alioto's homeless program—particularly, since she has mouthed off the loudest about Newsom and his Proposition N, to the point of saying that Newsom "is simply not competent." He might not be competent in your eyes, Angela, but at the very least, he's trying.

Treasurer and mayoral candidate **Susan Leal**? A hell of a public servant who I'm sure would make a good mayor (if only she could get elected), but she, too, has taken her shots at Newsom's Proposition N. Oh, sure, like the others, Leal says that she "is guided by the voters," but raps New-

som, saying, "I have never believed that a multilayered, complex issue like homelessness could be solved through a ballot initiative." So, again, I ask—what are you offering along that line Ms. Leal? Frankly, there is nothing I would like to see more than a competent person from the gay/lesbian community like Susan Leal become mayor of San Francisco, but, again, what the hell does she plan to do about homelessness other than attack CNC? We're waiting, Ms. Leal.

Frankly, this Board of supervisors has a duty—no, a mandate—from the city's voters to implement Care Not Cash and bringing a prompt and successful appeal by

City Attorney **Dennis Herrera's** office, the supervisors should listen to the will of San Francisco voters and approve Proposition N as it now stands.

Politics and people

According to the *New York Times*, some 200 gay Republicans met with "senior White House officials" (read: Dr. **Joe O'Neill**, the openly gay AIDS czar) and the name of Senator **Rick Santorum** (R-Pennsylvania) never once came up. How could that be? Apparently those 200 gay Republicans didn't want to upset the "White House officials." **Patrick Guerriero**, executive director of the national Log Cabin Republicans, did say, however, that the talks "were substantive and really terrific discussions." That's good. It should also be noted that the highly-touted meeting actually took place not in the White House but more conveniently across the street in the Old Executive Building.

Incidentally, San Diego County's openly lesbian District Attorney **Bonnie Dumanis**, a Republican, was the guest speaker at the recent Palm Springs convention of the California Log Cabin Republicans, and Los Angeles attorney **Jeffrey A. Bissiri** is to be congratulated as the group's new president.

Meanwhile, the national Republicans must really be worried about New York Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton's** (D) rising popularity. The national GOP is sending out tens of thousands of fundraising letters to Republicans and registered independents using Clinton as the new devil of the Democrats who is threatening to take over her party and the nation (we should be so fortunate) and asking for donations of \$100-\$500 to save the country from Hillary. Hey, direct mail political fundraising is to politics as supermarket tabloids is to journalism and if someone has to be the devil for the Republican Party, it might as well be Hillary Rodham Clinton, very likely the first woman to become president of these United States.

After seven of 10 planned outings, the weekly square-offs on CBS' *60 Minutes* between former President **Bill Clinton** and his former GOP presidential opponent **Bob Dole** have generated practically no buzz since they premiered in March, and have done nothing to boost the news-magazine's sagging ratings. Reports from New York have it that

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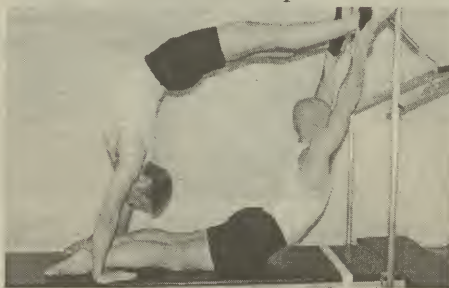
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Will Supreme Court victory bring backlash?

by Dale Carpenter

Most analysts expect that, come late June, the United States Supreme Court will issue an opinion in a case called *Lawrence v. Texas* declaring antigay sodomy laws unconstitutional. If that happens there will be widespread jubilation among gay rights activists as the ancient stigma of criminality, used to justify so many other forms of discrimination, is finally removed from gays and a new era of legal equality is promised. But would such a decision also energize antigay political forces as never before, leading to a tidal wave of backlash that will sweep aside present or potential gay rights gains across the country?

Consider the example of abortion. In a historic 1973 decision, *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court declared that laws outlawing abortion violate a woman's constitutional right to privacy (a right-to-privacy argument is now being made against sodomy laws in *Lawrence*). Feminists hailed the decision as an important step forward for women. At last, they said, women would have control over one of the most fundamental aspects of personal liberty, reproduction.

Yet 30 years after *Roe* there is a growing consensus in academic and political circles that, whatever one thinks of the legal merits of the decision, its effect on abortion rights and the politics of women's equality has been mixed at best. Before *Roe*, argue many commentators, the country was already headed toward greater liberalization of abortion laws, a consequence of disciplined state-by-state political organizing by abortion supporters.

Roe caused abortion rights advocates to relax their political efforts even while it galvanized a strong religious-right movement unfriendly to feminist causes. Rather than ending a national struggle on an important moral question, *Roe* seems to have prolonged and embittered it.

Abortion, though legal, is still widely stigmatized. While poll results have fluctuated over the past three decades, the trend in recent years has been toward greater opposition to abortion rights. Having bypassed the hard work of forging a national consensus through public debate and persuasion, abortion rights supporters must rely on increasingly hostile courts for protection.

The abortion procedure itself is getting harder to obtain. Doctors don't want to perform them.

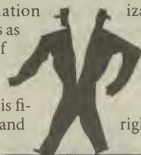
Clinics are besieged by demonstrators, who shame and intimidate patrons. State legislatures have concocted a web of constraints on the practice through mandatory waiting periods, parental-consent laws, informed-consent requirements, and so forth.

Will *Lawrence* be our *Roe*? As with abortion laws in *Roe*, the strong national trend is already in the direction of sodomy-law liberalization. A small but declining majority of Americans still believe homosexual acts are immoral, while a slight but rising majority also believe they should be legal. Like *Roe*, *Lawrence* would be a top-down command from the Supreme Court to the people and to the states mandating a uniform national outcome on a highly contentious matter of public policy.

Far from helping to settle the question of the morality of homosexual conduct, *Lawrence* could inflame the debate. It could also energize a specifically and ferociously antigay movement on a scale heretofore unseen. And it might lead frustrated legislatures to devise ever-more-clever ways to discriminate against gays.

There are, however, important differences in the abortion and sodomy contexts that suggest the outcome for gays after *Lawrence* will be better than it has been for abortion rights supporters after

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COMMENTARY

Not a man, not a queen

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Assume for a minute that you have read yet another example of some straight guy telling the world exactly what you are. Imagine if his research into you and others like you is flawed, and really doesn't reflect what it means to be you. Beyond that, consider that these incorrect depictions of you are so flawed that they reduce who you are to a sexual fetish, and erase important parts of your self-identity.

Now you know how I feel about the recently-published *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism* by J. Michael Bailey (Joseph Henry Press).

I don't want to bore you with a book review, especially because you are not reading the Arts and Entertainment section. Nevertheless, I feel it important to warn you a bit about this book.

Bailey — "a single, heterosexual man" according to his text — seems to believe there are two types of male-to-female transsexuals in this world. There are the ones he classifies as homosexual men and those he classifies as autogynephilic men. The distinction between them seems to lie mainly in which ones turn him on and which ones don't.

I should clarify what "autogynephilia" is, for those who may not be aware of this phrase. Basically put, it refers to a person with a sexual fetish around body feminization, particularly in regard to having a vagina. It was coined by a doctor in Canada who has a bit of history with junk science and bizarre research.

Bailey's text subjects are largely from the club scene, many of whom do not fit the more or less accepted standards of transsexuality. At least one of his text subjects has come forth and stated that she was misrepresented in his book. For what it's worth, I know this person personally, and would have to agree with her.

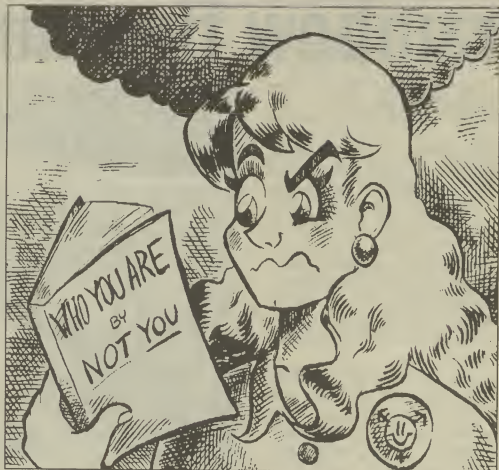
For that matter, my very existence invalidates Bailey's rigid pigeonholes. I can't fit his "homosexual man" category, because I am bisexual, and primarily interested in other women. I don't fit his "autogynephilic man" category because I have never been one to fetishize about having a female body. Never mind that I also don't fit the label "man" in most meanings of the term.

Judging from what little response he has given to those who have spoken out about his "theories," he would just assume that I am lying, and really do fit into his binary.

He doesn't talk about female-to-male transpeople in this book. While typically it angers me when people forget about an entire half of the transgender community, I will make a notable exception this time. Sadly, I have learned that Bailey is researching the very topic — though he frames FTM individuals as "tomboys" in his call for participants.

Bailey also has some views on homosexuals as well, which consist of stereotypes that I thought most people got over in 1972: homophobic stereotypes of limp-wristed sissies are still the standard by which homosexuality exists in Bailey's world.

Bailey himself has started to



tour some of the college campuses, with a presentation that comes off like a second-rate Jerry Springer show.

It is all tawdry and repugnant, and normally I could care less if someone put out a book like this.

If I worried about every time a flawed image of transgenderism made it's way into the mainstream, I'd be far more neurotic than I am already. What bothers me is that this book has come out on a national academic press, and stands poised to make its way into curriculum around the country.

Transgender people have had to weather similar situations before, most notably with the 1979 release of Janice Raymond's *The Transsexual Empire*. Raymond's book was the final nail in the coffin of 1970s-era transgender activism, and it took a decade before the community gained enough fortitude to respond. Raymond's text — flawed as it is — is still used today to attack transgender people.

Bailey's book could do more damage to transsexuals — and homosexuals — than a dozen Janice Raymonds, and I certainly hope it will take a lot less time for people to speak out about this text. More than this, I want to see transgender people out there, telling their own stories.

I think it does take transgender people writing their own books, making their own movies, and taking our voice into whatever venue we can. This will do more to tell what we are about than any non-transgender person can dream of.

We need to go a step further. I know that there are transgender academicians out there, and some of you are working hard to counter the errors of J. Michael Bailey. I applaud your effort. At that same time, I am sure there are others who could just as well be providing their own voices to this, and it is my hope that you will.

If you are tired of having your identity reduced to a paraphilia, then it's time for you to tell people what it is. Heck, even if your identity is akin to a paraphilia, then put your voice out there, rather than letting someone else make the determination for you.

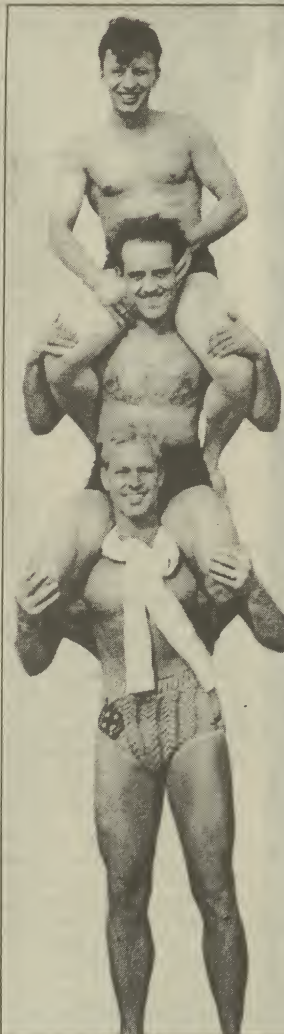
For myself, I get tired of people trying to tell me who and what I am. I've dealt with that all my life, from the minute that Dr. Shoaf — my mother's OB/GYN — mistakenly said, "It's a boy!" I've been erased, ignored, misrepresented, and jeered by others who seem to

think they know me better than I know myself.

After three decades or so, I think I'm the foremost authority on what it is to be myself, and I really don't feel the need to have J. Michael Bailey — or anyone else, for that matter — try to tell me what they think I am.

I am me: that's all you need to know. ▼

Gwen Smith can't believe she actually read all of that book — twice. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.



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Gilbert Baker's
rainbow flag turns 25

by Joe Dignan

Rainbow flag designer Gilbert Baker didn't know if the rainbow would work as an emblem for the gay liberation movement, so for the Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978, he made two flags. One had just eight brightly colored stripes. The other had, along with the stripes, a field of tie-dyed stars in the corner to resemble an American flag.

"We didn't know if people would recognize just the rainbow as a flag," Baker said.

They flew both versions from the two poles that, according to Baker, formed an entrance to Civic Center plaza.

"They were enormous," said Baker's friend and AIDS quilt founder Cleve Jones.

At the end of the parade, Baker said, "Everyone passed between the two giant flags. Harvey Milk on top of a car. Jon Sims leading the gay marching band."

"When people saw it that day, people were just overwhelmed by the beauty of it. That morning I felt uplifted," Jones said.

Since then, the ubiquitous rainbow flag has become one of the most widely recognized symbols of the LGBT community.

Two celebrations will mark the 25th anniversary of the unfurling of Baker's first flag. The first, an exhibit of rare photographs, a scrap of the first flag, the sewing machine Baker used to make it, and other items, assembled by the GLBT Historical Society, will open on Saturday, May 17 at two sites — the Hormel Center in San Francisco's Main Library, and at the LGBT Community Center.

The Harvey Milk Institute will host a program on Sunday, June 1 at the community center with Baker, Jones, author Phyllis Burke, and a lesbian-in-drag big band review called The Woodyzy.

According to Jones, who helped Baker dye the fabric for the first flags at one of San Francisco's early community centers at 330 Grove Street, there had been an ongoing discussion among their circle of friends about the need for a new symbol.

The rainbow, Jones said, works on many levels. "First," with its bright cheerful colors, "it's beautiful."

Early symbols

According to historian Paul Gabriel, who is curating the GLHS exhibit, previous symbols were about fighting back or they needed explanation.

In 1893 Oscar Wilde sported a green carnation to show that he was a member of London's secret homosexual society, perhaps, Baker guessed, because of his Irish background. In the 1960s, if you wore green on Thursdays, you might be presumed to be gay. In 1970, gay activists co-opted the pink triangle that Nazis had used to mark gays in prisons and concentration camps.

"But you have to know the story," Gabriel said. In the same year, the Gay Activist Alliance adopted the Greek letter lambda as a symbol, which, in physics, is sometimes used to represent potential kinetic energy.

But, according to Gabriel, part of the rainbow's success comes



Rainbow flag creator Gilbert Baker, center, during the 1998 Pride Parade.

from the fact that it's instantly accessible. You don't have to know anything.

Baker said that the inspiration for the flag came to him while dancing at a Winterland concert featuring Patti Smith and Bruce Springsteen.

The flag, and the modern gay liberation movement, developed in San Francisco at around that time.

According to Jones, in the late 1960s and 1970s there weren't a lot of places gay or lesbian people could go and live their lives openly.

"There were three or four main choices. New York, Los Angeles, Boston to some extent, and San Francisco. The cities attracted different kinds of people. San Francisco had a hippie perspective," Jones said.

Gays and lesbians were drawn to the city, and the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, where just a few years before, the flower power generation had come of age.

"It attracted a very political activist," Jones said.

Historian Gabriel put it differently. "It was a bunch of hippies in the 1970s. It was gay freaks."

So out of that excitement sprang many movements and organizations that will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their beginnings this year. Many of the individuals who started them brought their talents and training to the movement, and did what they knew how to do. Musician Jon Sims's Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band and the Gay Men's Chorus, Tom Waddell's Gay Games, and Alan Estes's Theater Rhinoceros.

And drag queen Gilbert Baker could sew.

"Different backgrounds came together to build a better world. You can be cynical. But it worked. They changed the world," said Gabriel.

About the moment he had the idea, dancing at that concert at Winterland, Baker said, "I don't even know if I was on drugs or not, the swirl of people and the colors."

Rainbows all over

Unfortunately for Baker, he never took out a copyright on the symbol.

"You go to stores that are just filled with rainbow-themed items and he doesn't get a penny off of it," Jones said.

Watching the progress of the rainbow flag as it moved from a local grassroots banner to the em-

blem of an international movement lets you trace the progress of the gay liberation, Gabriel said.

By 1984 the rainbow began to appear on the east coast of the U.S. In 1985 Interpride, an organization of LGBT Pride organizers, adopted the rainbow as its "symbol of lesbian and gay pride."

Baker made a mile-long flag for New York's 1994 commemoration of the Stonewall riots and handed out segments of the piece to Pride organizers from around the world. That same year, the rainbow flag flew over the main stage of London's Pride celebration for the first time and appeared throughout Europe.

"It is a worldwide symbol of our movement and our community. It has become as well-known as nearly any symbol, political or religious. It's practically as well-known as the cross," said Jones.

Baker is more blasé.

"I could kill myself walking down the street and seeing rainbow dog collars. Nobody's more over this rainbow thing than I am," he said.

Baker's original rainbow lost two of its original eight colors — hot pink and turquoise — almost immediately in 1979 when, to make it easier and less expensive to produce, he reduced the number of colors from eight to six.

Now he's working on an even bigger giant flag, in the original eight colors, underwritten by Absolut Vodka, to be displayed in Key West, Florida on June 15. It will stretch from one side of the island on the Atlantic coast, to the Gulf of Mexico on the other, a little under a mile and a half. Baker will bring a quarter-mile section of the piece to the San Francisco Pride Parade in June.

"When I get tired of making rainbow flags, I make evening gowns," Baker said. "I'm into sewing metal beads and sequins. I'm really happy."

HMI's tribute to Baker and his flag will be on Sunday, June 1 from 1-3 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Tickets are on a sliding scale to \$10. Call (415) 865-5633 or go to www.harveymilk.org for tickets and details.

The GLHS exhibit runs from May 17 - July 17 at both the Hormel Center, Larkin and Grove streets, and at the community center. Both parts of the exhibit are open during the venues' regular hours. Both are free. For more information go to www.glbthistory.org or call (415) 777-5455. ▼

Dignan / Photographics

Panel blasts new federal HIV priorities

by Matthew S. Bajko

At their first meeting since the federal government released four new initiatives aimed at stemming the spread of HIV, the members of a San Francisco HIV advisory panel voiced grave concerns about the switch in prevention tactics.

Last month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced sweeping changes in how it plans to confront rising rates of HIV in America. In addition to a new push to test pregnant women for the deadly virus, federal health officials want to make HIV tests a routine part of medical care. It is estimated a third of the people carrying the virus are not aware that they have HIV.

With the advent of rapid HIV tests, the federal agency is also moving toward new models for diagnosing HIV outside of medical settings. And a monumental shift is under way in how the fed-

eral agency allocates prevention funds.

Under the new initiatives, more emphasis will be placed on prevention for people who are HIV-positive. While pilot projects aimed at HIV-positive people have been launched in the last five years, the bulk of prevention programs have largely been targeted to HIV-negative people.

During the monthly meeting of the HIV Prevention Planning Council Thursday, May 8, Steven Tierney, San Francisco's director of HIV prevention, said the new initiatives are "clearly part of a conservative Republican agenda" meant to "shift funding away from injection drug users and gay men."

Tierney, who co-chairs the HPPC, said the new approach to prevention efforts is the direct result of Tom Coburn, a conservative Republican former congressman who heads the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS. Coburn has been a

longtime advocate for testing of pregnant women and "is not a friend of ours," said Tierney, referring to the gay community.

And to fund these new programs, Tierney warned the CDC intends to divert money now going to community-based organizations to pay for the new initiatives. According to HPPC co-chair Israel Nieves-Rivera, those agencies that will be most affected are the ones working with disadvantaged communities. He warned that nearly \$1.2 million in funding the city receives for prevention for communities of color will be gone by May 2004.

"The federal government expects the city to pick up those funds," he said. "There will no longer be grants for health education. All that is gone."

But most alarming to the community members who make up the HPPC is what they see as an erosion of their ability to set policies that are good for San Francisco. Under the new guidelines, the CDC will require local jurisdictions to use standardized

procedures for prevention interventions.

"They are no longer allowing control to be the local jurisdictions and that is outrageous," said Mike Discepolo, an HPPC member and a program manager with the AIDS Health Project.

One area where the CDC and the city's prevention plans diverge is in the area of counseling. While the HPPC contends prevention counseling needs to be done in conjunction with testing, the CDC has determined there is no need to do counseling when testing for HIV.

The CDC maintains that counseling can be a barrier to testing and that testing should only be given in high-risk settings or to high-risk individuals. While the HPPC has said testing should be focused on high-risk populations, it maintains that everyone should have access to testing.

"We object to the delinking of counseling from testing," said John Newmeyer, who represents the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic

on the HPPC.

Nor is there any proof, HPPC members said, that these new initiatives will have an impact on the spread of HIV. While federal health officials contend that the 40,000 new HIV infections each year in the United States is evidence enough to make changes, those working on the local level argue infection rates could be even higher if it were not for the very programs the Bush administration is attacking.

"Never mind if it wasn't for HIV prevention there would be 160,000 new infections each year," Tierney warned.

But maintaining those prevention models could mean losing funding from the federal government if the HPPC does not implement the CDC's new requirements. With funding cuts imminent from both the state and city, the full impact of these new initiatives will become clear over the next year, as the HPPC grapples with how to integrate its priorities with the new federal mandates. ▼

OutRight

◀ page 10

Roe.

First, a favorable sodomy decision would overturn far fewer state laws. Today, only 13 states have laws criminalizing sodomy and only four of those specifically target gay sex. *Roe*, on the other hand, affected the abortion laws of all 50 states, none of which were liberal enough for the court.

The Supreme Court has tended to generate less political backlash when it takes on a single state or a small number of them. When it eliminated state laws barring interracial marriage in 1967, for example, only a few states still had such laws. That decision is now uncontroversial. When the court takes on the whole country, as in *Roe*, it's a different story. For that reason, perhaps, the court is most bravely principled when it is most politically safe.

A second important difference comes from the nature of the activities regulated. Sodomy involves an act in the privacy of the home between consenting adults. It's hard for any reasonable person to see how that conduct harms anybody, apart from the "harm" they suffer from simply knowing it occurs.

Abortion is a much more problematic matter. It does not occur in a home but, usually, in a

commercial and heavily regulated context. That's not a purely "private" act, though it has substantial effects on private life. After *Lawrence*, by contrast, gays won't be seeking sodomy in easily targeted public clinics.

Much more importantly, whatever you think of abortion, it is not just a matter between a woman and her doctor. It also involves killing an unborn child, which is at the very least a potential human life.

These differences do not mean there will be no outcry after a Supreme Court decision holding sodomy laws unconstitutional. Some people will claim Western civilization is coming to an end. They will seek ways legislatively to test the limits of the decision.

But the differences will, I predict, make the intensity of the reaction lower than what we've witnessed on abortion since *Roe*. It's going to be a lot harder for most Americans — even those uncomfortable with homosexuality — to get terribly worked up because someone is having fun in a bedroom and harming no one in the process. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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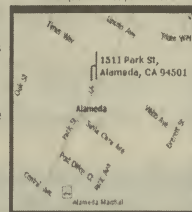
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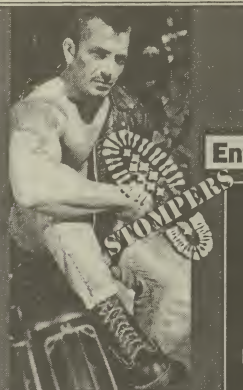
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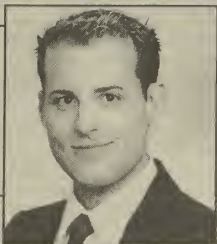
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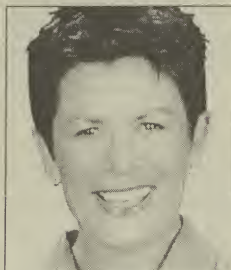
by Cynthia Laird

Comedian Kate Clinton will emcee the National Center for Lesbian Right's 26th anniversary dinner gala on Saturday, May 24.

The event is expected to attract more than 2,000 NCLR supporters from across the country, and is the centerpiece of the organization's "Liberty Weekend" festivities. NCLR is one of the country's premier legal centers with a primary commitment to advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and their families.

"NCLR's litigation and policy work to advance lesbian legal rights is increasingly important, especially with the tone of politics today," said Kate Kendell, executive director. "As we celebrate in grand style on May 24, we are declaring to the world that lesbians will settle for nothing less than full equality under the law."

"Every lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender person benefits when NCLR achieves a new breakthrough on adoption or cus-



Comedian Kate Clinton

tody, expands the legal definition of family, wins a political asylum or youth case, empowers our elders, or helps an athlete fight the homophobia in her sport."

Several people will be honored at the dinner, and Kendell will deliver the keynote address. Awardees include Ashly Massey, an eighth grade NCLR client suing her school district for discrimination, and her mother, Amelia Massey; Barbara Gittings, a pioneering lesbian activist; and Ana Oliveira, a lesbian health ad-

vocate and executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City. Musical guests include Jean and June Millington of the all-girl rock band, Fanny, and DJ Page Model.

Kendell noted that other Liberty Weekend activities include a kick-off party Friday, May 23 at Mecca Restaurant in the Castro, walking tours of the Castro with guide Trevor Hailey, an after-party at the Cherry bar, a salsa dance party at El Rio, and shopping discounts at Nordstrom during the weekend.

The dinner event will take place at the Moscone Center ballroom, at Howard and Third streets in downtown San Francisco. Proceeds raised from the event will help NCLR continue its legal work on behalf of the community, Kendell said, and "fight right-wing attempts to dismantle our victories of the past two decades."

Gala dinner-dance tickets begin at \$200 and can be purchased through NCLR at (415) 392-6257, ext. 14. More information on NCLR and the upcoming Liberty Weekend festivities can be found online at www.NCLRights.org. ▼

25th annual Milk Club dinner next week

by Zak Szymanski

When the late Supervisor Harvey Milk formed the Gay Democratic Club in 1977, it was a deliberate move to make history. By using the word "gay" in the club's name, it differentiated the group from what he saw as the less progressive arms of gay political organizing.

Twenty five years after Milk's assassination led to the club's renaming, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club is still going strong. And in the spirit of Milk, the city's first openly gay elected official, the club continues to fight for progressive causes, and build coalitions with other marginalized populations.

To celebrate the club's silver anniversary, the Milk Club's 25th annual awards dinner will be held on Thursday, May 22, at the Ramada Hotel on Market and Eighth streets in San Francisco.

Citing the current United States policies that target Arab Americans, free speech, and activists with scare tactics, silence, detainment, and deportation, the Milk Club is urging everyone concerned about human rights to attend the dinner and meet some of the area's highest ranking leaders and legislators.

Public Defender Jeff Adachi will

be the keynote speaker. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), San Francisco Supervisor and mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano, and former Assemblywoman and current Board of Equalization member Carole Migden will all be honored for their work on behalf of the LGBT community over the past year. Other award honorees include longtime labor leader, environmentalist, LGBT activist and city commissioner Denise D'Anne; the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; the HIV/AIDS service organization Proyecto Contra Sida Por Vida; and a to-be-announced volunteer of the year.

"Our dinner and awards program will be a time to remember

the life of Harvey Milk and the club's successes, and to outline our goals for the future," said a statement from the club, which urges community attendance, to reiterate a commitment to the values that Milk embodied. "Today, many of the club's endorsed candidates are in office and working to solve some of the toughest problems the city has faced in many years. Active on many fronts to keep queer issues in the public eye, the club is now working to harness antiwar energy to fight injustices imposed in the name of 'homeland security.'"

Tickets are \$55-\$100 sliding scale. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner begins at 6:45. RSVP to (415) 613-2436. ▼

Center director

◀ page 3

square foot building, but has been relegated to the role of landlord in most of the programs it works on, as the plans it hoped to implement have fizzled amid staff turmoil and a bad economic climate.

Lynch said he would hold community meetings in the first two months to, he said, "hear what their concerns and expectations are" and help devise a strategic plan for the center.

He said he has his own ideas about what the center should be doing, but wants to listen to the public.

"It needs to be organic to the community," he said.

He said he was excited to get the new position. "I'm really pleased. But it's mixed. I love Project Open Hand, but I'm really excited to take the skills I've learned here and bring them to the center."

Project Open Hand has not announced a replacement for Lynch. Lynch is expected to start work at the center on June 22. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Partner rights

page 1

Project, testified during a hearing last month before the Assembly Appropriations Committee that the cost-savings would come from the predicted reduction in the number of individuals eligible for means-tested government benefits, mutual responsibility for debts by domestic partners, and an estimated increase in income tax revenues.

The two separate studies are providing gay rights advocates ammunition as they prepare to fight for passage of AB205, authored by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles). The bill, sponsored by Equality California and a coalition of gay rights groups, would significantly expand the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of registered domestic partners in the state.

If enacted, the bill would elevate domestic partnerships in California to the same status as civil unions in Vermont. After a bill that would have created civil unions stalled in the Legislature last year, lawmakers and advocates decided to switch tactics and pursue the domestic partnership bill this year.

The bill, one of the top priorities for lesbian and gay lawmakers in Sacramento, is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee's "suspense file" and is scheduled to be heard on May 28. Conservative groups have argued that the bill would actually cost the state money due to administrative costs and loss of revenue from gay couples filing joint tax returns.

However, Molly McKay, Northern California executive director of Marriage Equality California, called those concerns "bogus arguments."

At a time when the state is grappling with a massive budget deficit, advocates are trying to use the domestic partnerships bill's economic benefits as a tool to gather support among lawmakers.

"This independent study is consistent with what we have witnessed in Vermont: discrimination is more expensive than equality," Geoffrey Kors, Equality California's executive director, said of the UCLA study. "It is now clear that AB205 will save the state money. Considering California's current fiscal situation, every member of the Legislature should be jumping on board as a co-author of this bill as soon as possible. AB205 will strengthen families and promote financial responsibility by simply giving domestic partners the ability to take care of their families. It's

clearly a win-win situation — equality for families and cost savings for taxpayers."

Monogamy issue questioned

Using domestic partnerships as a public health policy has caused some concern among AIDS advocates. Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, questioned the validity of making such an argument.

"I have not seen the argument made before that if we could just get guys married they would have less risky sex," said Van Gorder after being shown the study's results. "I think gay men in San Francisco have very different attitudes about domestic partnerships. I would count myself among the people who are offended at having Jeff Klausner say if we just acted like heterosexuals everything would be okay."

Considering the myriad health problems facing gay men, Van Gorder said that he feels health officials should not be wasting time on domestic partnership legislation.

"I think quite frankly, it is naive to think that given all the other issues that gay men face in San Francisco, that this is an area from a public health perspective we should be spending a lot of time on," he said. "Let's spend time dealing with the speed epidemic in San Francisco before we spend a lot of time in the public health community on domestic partners legislation."

Those pushing for marriage rights, however, welcome the study results. While some in the gay community have feared marriage rights would heterosexualize gay relationships, others argue that monogamy should be celebrated and is desired by some gay men.

MECA's McKay, while cautioning she approaches the topic as a lesbian with different cultural norms attached to monogamy, nevertheless said she was intrigued by the questions raised in the study.

"I think this is going to cause quite a lot of discussion within our community," she said. "The same-sex marriage movement is sometimes judged by some gay people as a way to homogenize our traditionally outlawed culture. Really nothing could be further from the truth. MECA only wants to expand your options and give you a full array of options, whether that means being single, being in an open relationship, being in a closed relationship, living together but not being married, and being married."

In looking at the study results,

McKay said she was struck by the fact that 74 percent of the men in domestic partnerships said they remained monogamous.

"It is really interesting that men who publicly go on record to demonstrate a commitment to each other are much less likely to go outside that relationship for sex," she said. "It shows there is a population that opts for domestic partnerships who are the marrying type. They are doing everything they can legally to protect their relationship and this concern extends beyond a legal concern but also the health of one's partner."

McKay said the study results made her think that not only are more gay men "structuring their relationship where love and sex is complete in one package," but society's growing acceptance for gay couples is having an effect on sexual behaviors.

"We no longer have that strong message [against gay marriage] coming from straight people anymore. We are finding instead now that more moms are calling to talk to your partner and considering him their son-in-law," she said. "Families are getting into the highs and lows of the relationship and counseling you to stay together instead of asking, 'When are you going to find a girl?'"

It is not only that more straight people simply expect gay domestic partners to be monogamous, but McKay said the gay community's attitudes toward sex are changing as well.

"Gay people for so long felt monogamy is oppressive and the antithesis to what the gay community represents. Now gay people have the freedom to choose whatever relationships they want and people are finding there is value in monogamy," she said. ▼

San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council

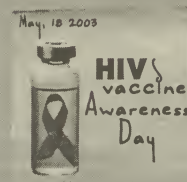


The community planning group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of Ryan White CARE Act Title I and 11 funds (used to provide services for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties) invites and encourages members of the public to attend their meetings and provide public comment.

The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

Abuse programs

◀ page 1

ing. While the programs do not focus solely on the gay community, they do provide services to some LGBT people.

The remaining program, New Leaf, an agency that works solely with LGBT clients, is facing a \$225,346 cut to its substance abuse programs. The cut equals nearly half of its current \$478,828 contract.

The health department is redirecting that funding to other programs that offer medical detoxification and methadone services for heroin addicts. The health department has determined that those services are more critical to the substance abuse system of care and a more cost effective way to spend city funds.

The decision has angered some in the gay community who have been fighting for increased funding for years to deal with the rising numbers of gay men addicted to methamphetamines, or crystal. Even with its full funding New Leaf has had to institute waiting lists and set aside drop-in hours just to serve all of the people seeking treatment.

"We're basically contacting many members of the Board of Supervisors and asking them to restore funding for these services because we believe they are critical services for the safety net for San Francisco," said Joseph Neisen, New Leaf's executive director. "We don't believe the safety net for the city should be the top priority to make reductions even during a difficult economic time."

The situation is the same at the Stonewall Project, another city-

funded substance abuse treatment program. People seeking help there have had to wait as long as six months. Last fall, the agency had to ask the city for emergency funding of \$70,000 in order to reduce that wait time. With a budget of only \$150,000, the agency has been unable to hire any counselors full-time. The emergency funding will run out this summer and the agency may have to reinstate a waiting list.

While the agency will not experience any cuts in funding next year, Michael Siever, director of the program, said he is upset by the health department's decision to transfer money that was earmarked for the LGBT community to other programs that are less likely to serve gay clients.

"I could certainly use that money," said Siever. "That was money earmarked for queer communities and it is now going to services that are less likely to be servicing LGBT folks. There are far fewer people addicted to heroin in our communities than in other ones."

Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, agreed with Siever that the funds should be targeted toward the LGBT community.

"We have to be putting more money into speed, not less," he said. "It would be my hope that money finds its way, if not to Stonewall or somewhere else which can use it directly, then it go into dedicated detox slots specifically for gay men experiencing problems."

Van Gorder also challenged health officials to look within existing HIV prevention resources to make up for the general fund cuts "so they don't affect what very

limited programs we have to address this crisis."

But that is unlikely to happen, said James Loyce, deputy director of health for AIDS programs.

"We don't have the federal, state, or local resources to continue to fund our programs at the present level and all service categories have had some impacts as the result of this year's budget," Loyce said through a spokeswoman.

Health department officials defend their decision to cut the substance abuse funds, stating they had to make difficult decisions in order to deal with the city's mounting budget problems. The funding cuts had also been made months before the problems with crystal use in the gay community had received so much attention from political leaders and the media.

"Unfortunately, the thinking isn't always perfect when it comes to severe budget cuts like we are facing. The money did come out of the substance abuse side from programs that are under utilized, are very expensive per client, and don't always necessarily have the best outcomes," said Dr. Bob Cabaj, director of behavioral health services for the health department.

Cabaj said as the department weighs how to stretch its dollars, methadone is a lot less expensive and treats many more clients for the same amount of money as programs like New Leaf's.

"My understanding with New Leaf, going from the documentation, was there had been under utilization of the program and it was expensive per client. Those right away got it on the radar screen," said Cabaj.

page 19 ▶

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OBITUARIES

David Cory Herrera
1975 — 2003

David passed away in his home on Saturday, May 10, 2003. He is survived by his loving partner, Trent Lethco, his immediate family, and his extended family of friends throughout San Francisco.

David was committed to his field of work as a funeral counselor and worked for the Neptune Society of California at the San Francisco Columbarium. He also worked at Sullivan's Funeral Home and MacAvoy O'Hara.

David was a warm, loving person who brought sunshine into everyone's

life. His smile always brightened up a room. David was a running enthusiast who completed the 2002 San Francisco Marathon. He was a chef who didn't know how to fix a dish without plenty of garlic and mushrooms. He knew how to throw a great party, was an exceptional host and a legendary drama queen. He never met a cat or dog he didn't like. Lastly, David was a cell-phone enthusiast like no other.

David attended the San Francisco School of Mortuary Science and Santa Rosa Junior College.

David spread happiness and sunshine with everyone along his path. He will be remembered for being a friendly, loyal and happy partner, son, brother and friend. We will miss you. Many have danced this dance called life but none with his gentle grace. Meow Meow.

Family and friends are invited to a Memorial Service on Saturday, May 17,

1 p.m., at Chapels of Arthur J. Sullivan & Co. Funeral Home, 2254 Market St. bet. 15th & 16th sts. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the SF SPCA, 2500 - 16th St, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Javier Bustos
1955 — 2003

Princess Osiris, survive him. He lived in San Francisco over 20 years, where he

loved his life. After Javier went to spirit, his two sisters traveled to Brazil to bring his ashes and puppy back home. Many thanks to sisters, Yolanda Blagg and Anna Chandler. A special thanks to his niece Brizelda Blagg for making it possible.

One of Javier's passions was to dance. He taught classical Spanish with castanets, ballet, modern jazz and he was an excellent choreographer. He loved culture, teaching Spanish to his students and traveling. Javier was a very intelligent, loving and compassionate person. He brought laughter to all around him. He was a wonderful, loving and devoted friend to us all. He will be missed extremely by all whom knew him. "Aloha Javier, until we meet again."

A celebration of Javier's life is planned on Sunday, May 18, 2003, at 2 p.m. at Alonzo King Lines Ballet — 26 7th St., San Francisco. Memorial gifts may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in memory of Javier Bustos.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Former B.A.R. reporter Keith Clark dies

by Cynthia Laird

Keith Clark, a former reporter for the *Bay Area Reporter* and other gay publications, died Friday, May 9 at his home in San Francisco. He was 61.

Ken McPherson, a former roommate of Mr. Clark's and a good friend and neighbor, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, May 12 that the cause of death was emphysema.

Mr. Clark was born in Colorado, said another longtime friend, Marghe Covino.

Prior to moving to San Francisco about 20 years ago Mr. Clark was active in the Philadelphia gay community, and wrote for the *Philadelphia Gay News*, said San Francisco

activist Tommi Aviccoli Mecca. Aviccoli Mecca, who later moved here from Philadelphia, joined *PGN* in the early 1980s and later became managing editor in 1988.

"He was also one of my stringers from San Francisco," Aviccoli Mecca said.

Mr. Clark wrote for the *B.A.R.* in the 1980s.

McPherson, who was a longtime AIDS activist and host of a gay-themed radio program several years ago, said that Mr. Clark was known for his integrity in reporting at a time when the gay press was more advocacy oriented.

"Keith refused to stretch the facts," McPherson said. He recalled one instance when he had his radio show and used the con-

ventional report that gays make up 10 percent of the general population.

"He took my head off," McPherson recalled. "He used to say that until gay journalism has the same standards as mainstream journalism, we're not going to make it. He was one of the first to really say it it's not true and if it's not real, don't report it."

"That's what I'd like to remember him by," said McPherson.

Covino, who also used to write for the *B.A.R.* and writes for other publications, struck up a friendship with Mr. Clark many years ago. The two worked together on articles about breast cancer.

"He had an incredible mind and tremendous talent," Covino said.

McPherson and Covino said that Mr. Clark was devoted to his pets.

There are no plans for a memorial service. ▼

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East Bay celebration for George Bankovich

Longtime Bay Area gay bar owner George Bankovich, who died April 11 of a heart attack at his home in South Lake Tahoe, will be remembered at the White Horse Inn bar in Oakland this Saturday, May 17.

Mr. Bankovich used to own the White Horse, as well as the Rendezvous bar on Polk Street and Reflections bar in San Francisco.

Chuck Davis, who bought the White Horse from Mr. Bankovich in 2000, said that Lans Hafner, Mr. Bankovich's former business partner, and many patrons of his establishment wanted to celebrate Mr. Bankovich's life. The event will take place at the bar, located at 6551 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, from 4-7 p.m. Interested members of the public are welcome to attend. ▼ — Cynthia Laird

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

CBS executives are planning any day now to announce that the Clinton-Dole segments won't be back in September when *60 Minutes* returns for its 36th season.

Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson (D-Los Angeles) take note: Michigan House of Representatives Speaker Rick Johnson last

week said he was ordering state representatives to take a 3 percent pay cut to save that state nearly \$263,000 in next year's budget. This would mean a reduction in representative's pay in Michigan from \$79,650 to \$77,261 a year. ary by 10 percent.

And how was your week? ▼

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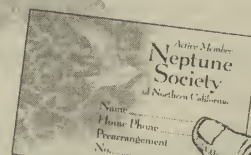
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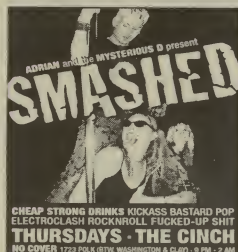
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Easy striders

by Jim Provenzano

Somewhere, amid the bunnies, multi-legged caterpillars, and rolling tiki bars, some serious runners also compete in the annual Bay to Breakers, taking place this weekend.

Several of them are members of Frontrunners, and the Bay Area Distance Runners. Among them are medalists from Sydney's grueling marathon - make that half marathon - competition.

Distance runners got to stride in pride at last Sunday's BADR's half marathon. The course followed the Embarcadero, and hundreds of runners participated.

Despite some obstacles, including even getting there on time, Sydney's Gay Games VI, held last November, proved to be yet another of many accomplishments for many local gay athletes.

Said BADR's Rick Thoman, a frequent medalist and longtime running organizer, about the Sydney snafu: "Many runners opted to take later trains (to the marathon competitions). What wasn't advertised was that the rail link from the Homebush station to the Olympic Park would not be operable until 7 a.m. - which was the race start time - meaning that probably about a thousand runners arrived about 25 minutes late to the start."

The weather also limited the event.

"It was around 100 degrees and 0 humidity from start to finish with minimal shade," said Thoman. "Nobody, including the race directors, anticipated it to be so hot." Thoman heard local volunteers joking that "even the kangaroos are in the shade."

Discussions between the race director and the medical team continued up to the starting gun.

"The medics wanted to cancel the race because of the heat - which is the prudent course of action - but so many runners had come from far and wide to run that most wanted the race to happen. A compromise was made, encouraging runners to downgrade to the half marathon, and half marathoners to downgrade to the 10K."

Some of the runners made the switch before and during the race based on the heat.

Despite the negatives Thoman said that, "The race directors did a great job in holding things together and making the race safe for everybody. And, they get kudos for allowing people to downgrade so that they could still participate."

Hanna BADR-era

Dennis Hanna competed in both last weekend's BADR event, and Sydney, but hadn't trained nearly enough, he said.

"I just did it, because I've done it every year."

He ran with a friend most of the way. "For us old-timers, it's the only time we see each other."

For Sydney, Hanna had only planned to do the half marathon, and competed at each Games except the first one.

He said that the scheduling problem of late arrivals in Sydney were rectified when officials informed the runners that computer chips tied to their shoes would record their time, even if they started late. So at least accuracy was maintained in makeshift form.

Like other Games, Hanna's race in Amsterdam at Gay Games V was equally exhausting, and limited by extreme heat.

Usually scheduled for the last day of the Games, marathoners often suffer from the weeklong training while trying to enjoy the other events.

"Sometimes, it's like a black cloud over your whole week," said Hanna. "You're always preparing for it."

Yet, he had "much more fun in Sydney. I was much more relaxed, and did a lot more, as far as going to other sports and cultural events."

Having competed in more than 50 marathons, the San Francisco attorney said that running, "has definitely been a part of my life, but I keep having to push myself to keep running."

Mili-hare-y

Aside from his distinctive beard, John Rochat can be recognized by a signature tattoo of a rabbit, an animal that's become a sort of symbol of his quick-start racing style.

Rochat, an oncologist at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Rosa, has been running since he was a medical student in Mississippi.

After working in San Diego with the Navy, in December 1995, he was discharged under the anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Rochat used to win races on the Marine Corps base where he worked.

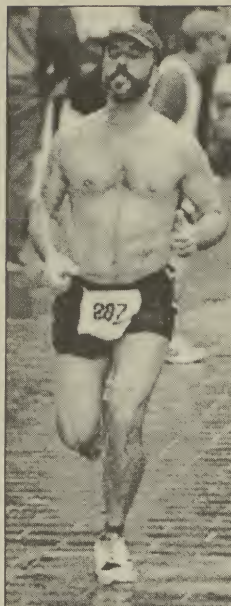
"It was one of the things that kept me sane," he said.

As the male co-chair of San Diego Frontrunners while in the Navy, Rochat was anonymously interviewed for the CBS program 48 hours. He appeared as "Tony the Tiger" with his face shadowed.

"It didn't get in the way," Rochat said. But his later discharge eventually led to his moving to Santa Rosa with his partner. He finished his fellowship at USC, "where they didn't care if you're gay."

Rochat, 39, also offered a gay veteran's perspective on the recent Iraq war, in which gay military dismissals dropped significantly.

"What was funny was that they decided it would be nice that they'd allow women in battle,"



Dr. John Rochat, a former Navy man, at the Catalina Marathon.

Rochat said. "So, a woman next to you in a foxhole isn't bad, but someone who's gay could be a problem?"

Having grown beyond such government discrimination, Rochat also competed in the Boston Marathon, and qualified five times. At last year's Catalina Marathon, he placed 35th overall.

Like many distance athletes, Rochat tapers his workout, running longer before a big race. "Because of my work, sometimes it's too long of a taper."

His experience in Sydney was "hot. Very hot. They said it would be spring, but it was full-out summer. That was tough. It was also the first time I ever blistered the hell out of my feet."

Still, he's timed well in races before and after the Games.

"Every race is a competition," he said. "It's a competition with yourself, a way of living that applies to more things than running. It's about discipline, dedication. When you push yourself, you find your limits, through failure and success."

Despite saying that the true essence of his love for running isn't about competition, last year he won the BADR half marathon, placing first overall.

He accomplished this while dealing with asthma, a condition which he said improves the more he runs, even in such extreme climates as the dry sandstorms of the Las Vegas Marathon, or the sheets of rain at the Catalina run.

Tremendous rush

James Carlson competed in Sydney in the up-to-54 men's category.

His attitude about the marathon scheduling changed, he said, "from pissed off to grateful. I was indebted to them for looking out for our health."

"They said if you were not paced to run the marathon in under four hours, you would be pulled off the course, as soon as the four-hour mark came around. The marathon course was a loop around the external perimeter of Olympic Park in four laps, so it was pretty easy."

Between working as the interim executive director for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Carlson has run in marathons in Honolulu and other cities.

Originally from Chicago, Carlson has lived in San Francisco for 30 years, and attended every Gay

Games, but he only competed in Sydney.

"In Amsterdam, I got fired up and said, 'Next time, I'm going to be a participant.'"

His four-year process of training started with runs on his own, building up to doing marathons.

Like many runners, Carlson's also done Bay to Breakers, "but that's more of a party."

As for Montreal's Gay Games VII, Carlson is concerned about the repeated financial failures of the host organizations.

"They can't have the exaggerated hopes," he said of Montreal's 2006 Games. "The planning has to be much more realistic. It makes me wonder if they had some financial models that were wrong, or if they're still recovering from the financial shenanigans that plagued Amsterdam. You have to rely less on the circuit parties and more on a greater surcharge."

But Carlson also sees beyond the fiscal woes, and to the ideals of the Games that were accomplished.

"It's always such an emotional experience to be part of the Games," he said. "I've never found anything as affirmative to gay life than that celebration. To march out with my city, to an Olympic-sized stadium audience, was just a tremendous rush. It made me prouder of being gay than all 30 years of the parade up and down Market Street combined. It says, 'We're here and we're athletes.'"

"We're doing this in the spirit of friendly international competition. Our unifying theme is that we're all gay or queer or whatever. It's a tremendous feeling to realize that I have a link to somebody in Algeria or India."

BADR to the bone

BADR is a running club oriented to the marathon. While most of the members are lesbian and gay, the group welcomes everyone who is comfortable in a lesbian and gay atmosphere. Over 150 members from the Bay Area and nationwide encompass all speeds and age ranges.

They usually train for four marathons a year: spring, summer, fall and winter, with a stepped-up training program for each marathon. Also, for those wishing just to keep a base going, their "weenie runs" offer shorter workouts.

For more info, visit www.sfbadr.com; e-mail: sfbadr@aol.com, or for East Bay

next page ►

BADR May 11 half
marathon results

1. Michael Ambrose 1:29:00
2. David Takacs 1:31:35
3. Steve Monette 1:36:43
4. Nicole David 1:37:32
5. Andrew Marsh 1:38:00
6. Russel Brent 1:38:12
7. Donna Hinshaw 1:41:36
8. John Rochat 1:42:22
9. Mike Duffy 1:42:40
10. Jenni Buckley 1:43:12
11. Michelle Philpot 1:43:22
12. Joe Kaminski 1:43:51
13. John Kruse 1:45:57
14. Marian Lyons 1:47:17
15. Dominique Girard 1:48:03
16. Chuck Loudon 1:50:49
17. Jamie Austin 1:52:11
18. Alan Vitolo 1:52:19
19. Cameron Yee 1:55:11
20. Nathaniel Wander 1:55:26

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Assault case

◀ page 1

Balderas and hit her with a closed fist in the mouth. Stunned, Balderas followed Earl outside to ask her "who she was, and why she did that," she said.

Once outside, Earl allegedly took another swing at Balderas, and Balderas swung back, knocking Earl to the ground.

At that time, said witnesses, Broughton approached and punched Balderas several times in the back of the head, and she flew into a parked car and landed on the ground. While Balderas was on the ground, Broughton allegedly kicked her up to 10 times, calling her names. Balderas lost consciousness for some part of the attack, and Sparks, who forcefully turned Broughton around to get him away from Balderas, suffered a torn shoulder from her intervention, as well as injuries from Broughton reportedly punching her in response.

It was then that Broughton and Earl left for the Eagle. Police officers were flagged down by Fuller, who had followed the couple to their next location. Sparks and Balderas were transported to the Eagle via ambulance where they identified Broughton and Earl.

Defensive stereotypes

Testimony from the victims was emotional as they recalled the beating.

Right before being hit by Broughton, said Balderas, she heard the words, "fucking bitch," and then she saw a white light. She felt her back hit something, felt immense pain in her head and cheek-

bone, and could not see out of her right eye. As she stayed on her knees and hands in the fetal position, she testified, she continued to feel the blows as they came: to her ear and jaw, to her torso, and to her wrist, which she had moved to protect her head. She heard the word "dyke" during the attack, and said the outside world went very dark while she was being beaten.

"I thought I was going to die," testified Balderas.

Sparks, who exited the club seconds after Balderas, said "there was blood everywhere" when she used all her strength to pull Broughton off Balderas.

Defense tactics, however, tried to paint the night as one in which Broughton was unfairly singled out for removal from the Drag King contest as a straight white man at a queer venue.

"Would you say the club was unwelcoming to straight people," defense attorney Gil Eisenberg asked nearly all of the witnesses on cross-examination.

Overwhelmingly, the answer from witnesses was "no." Broughton, who stands over 6 feet tall, has a shaved bald head, and who wore a black leather jacket and black boots on the night in question, was not necessarily read as straight by the club patrons. And straight couples did not necessarily stand out, considering that the event drew a sizable number of bisexuals and transgressors with opposite-sex partners.

But the queer and urban nuances apparently were lost on Eisenberg, who referred to the Drag King contest as a "queer event for homosexuals," and even tried to portray the women in at-

tendance as the aggressors.

"Wouldn't you say there were a lot of tough women there?" he asked one witness.

Judge Stewart interjected. "What does that mean, they were bench-pressing 500 pounds?" he said to a roomful of laughter.

"Wouldn't you say that many gay women don't like straight men?" Eisenberg also asked witnesses.

Eisenberg also did not seem to want to accept the fact that Sparks was at the Drag King contest to see her boyfriend Prado Gomez perform with Other Brothers; he got stuck on Balderas's use of the term "my girl" to refer to her best friend Sparks, and asked for clarification on that point on a few occasions.

"When you say [Gomez] is your partner," Eisenberg asked Sparks, "do you mean he is your business partner? Is that a term for a good friend?"

"My life partner," Sparks answered. "My lover."

"Okay. Ms. Balderas has referred to you as 'her girl.'"

"It's a term of affection," said Sparks.

"So, she's a good friend?" asked Eisenberg.

Eisenberg also challenged the hate crime enhancement on the basis that Balderas "went after" Earl, a term that Assistant District Attorney David Merin protested due to its implication that Balderas went looking for a fight. Broughton was simply defending his girlfriend when he beat Balderas, Eisenberg tried to convey, a notion that Stewart was willing to accept until the beating continued.

"Now [Balderas] is on the ground, and he's kicking her," said Stewart, upon his final ruling to

uphold the hate crime charge.

For hate crime charges to stick, bias has to be shown to be a substantial factor in the assault, according to case law cited by the prosecution and the judge. The trick is in proving during trial that the bias was a substantial part of the attack in question, and not just a part of Broughton's offensive behavior during portions of the evening. That is where more witnesses who heard or saw anything that night - particularly the bouncer Thunder Fuller - are crucial to the prosecution.

The bouncer known to many simply as "Thunder" has not been located, and the district attorney's office is asking that anyone who knows his whereabouts have him call (415) 553-1756; his testimony is needed.

At the May 23 arraignment, a pre-trial date will be set, during which a judge will either offer a deal, or the case will be scheduled for trial. The pre-trial, said Merin, is when the case will be most in jeopardy, so community members will be asked to attend those court dates. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0266130-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Exclusive Transportation Services. 1327 22nd Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Minh Nguyen H. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266149-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Unplugged Internet. Ca. 1375 De Haro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joey Kollin, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03540683

In the Matter of the Application of Jerome Anthony Hardin. For Change of Name. The application of Jerome Anthony Hardin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jerome Anthony Hardin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jerome Anthony Cuffey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266144-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metzler Brothers. 675 Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph B. Metzler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 16, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266437-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Two Sister's Restaurant. 308-5th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Masard Mochida and Kate Huison Choe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/28/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266385-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ATGYM CO. 810 Gonzalez Drive #3D, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kyung Keun Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266401-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: It's Market. 1561 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alex Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/25/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266379-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Employment Law Paralegal. 855 Sacramento Street, Suite 318, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Don L. Whitney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266353-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: City in Bloom. 957 Hayes Street Suite #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Louis Fitch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266473-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Del Wes Records. 735 Gough Street Apt. #C, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Earl Metts III. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266356-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Museum Of Vision. 655 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a Nonprofit corporation (501(c)3) sub-fund of Minnesota nonprofit corp. signed Brad A. Wong, Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266365-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: B Gear-SF. 3201 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ghazwa Danielle Mawlaoui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266498-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Henare Systems. 479 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Charles Mensch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266562-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: JJ Tour. 296 Flood Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Fung, Chun Kui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266461-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J & K Transportation Trucking. 2682 San Jose Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kong, Sen F. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/28/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540720

In the Matter of the Application of Sanjosh Tyree Lal For change of Name. The application of Sanjosh Tyree Lal for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sanjosh Tyree Lal has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Yisrael ben Avraham. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

Abuse programs

◀ page 16

But the department's own statistics seem to contradict that reasoning for cutting New Leaf's funding. In a letter to Supervisor Fiona Ma, who raised concerns about New Leaf's budget cuts in early May, Barbara A. Garcia, a deputy director of health and director of community programs at the health department, wrote that "as of March 31, 2003, New Leaf delivered 71 to 73 percent of contracted deliverables for its intensive outpatient and MSM outpatient programs, respectively. The target for the period is 75 percent."

According to Garcia's letter, 14,127 people sought substance abuse treatment last year. Out of those clients, 10 percent were LGBT and 22 percent were stimulant abusers. New Leaf's treatment program helped 263 or 25 percent of those LGBT clients and 130 or 4 percent of the stimulant abusers, according to the letter.

Neisen said the department's conclusion it had been underutilizing its funding is based on a problem with how it had been counting service units. He said that because of the problem "it looks like we underproduced though in fact if we would have

continued to count in the same way we had in prior years there likely would not have been an under production of service units."

"We are meeting our contract service units for this year, and in fact, we are still turning people away," added Neisen.

To deal with its reduction in funding, New Leaf is reducing management positions, leaving staff vacancies open and terminating its acupuncture and outreach services.

"The impact would be that there would be 50-plus individuals fewer who would be able to access substance abuse services at New Leaf," said Neisen. "It also means the another couple hundred people who want services we won't be able to accommodate."

The agency is also terminating its lease at 1874 Market Street which houses its meeting place. While the move will mean a \$70,000 savings for the agency, it means 20 12-step recovery programs will need to find new meeting space. But Neisen is hopeful the groups will be able to move into the LGBT Community Center which is right across the street from its main office and only doors down from the meeting place location.

"We now have this new resource in the community that has-

n't been here the last 30 years and we all are on the same block so hopefully that might mitigate some of the concerns about a transition," he said.

In the meantime, as the Board of Supervisors begins to examine the health department's budget, New Leaf is lobbying to have its funding restored.

"We do think that clearly, some of the members of the Board of Supervisors recognize that speed is a huge problem and an epidemic in the gay community," he said. "Perhaps that might be one factor they consider in not implementing these cuts."

Cabaj added that the health department will also be looking at ways to restore funding to the various substance abuse programs in order to help address the problem. If the department does find additional resources, he said "we could revisit this and re-deploy money to help some of these other programs."

Both Ma and Dufty asked members of the LGBT community to advocate for more funding as the board holds its budget hearings over the next two months.

"Addiction affects all of us. We all need to understand this and try to solve this," Ma said at the end of last week's forum. "We need to do more studies and encourage more funding for programs that work." ▼

Pride Run, or visit www.sffrontrunners.org for all your running questions.

Memo real

Don't forget next weekend's big events, the U.S. Gay Open Tennis Tournament, held at Golden Gate Park and other courts, May 23-26, and hosted by the San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation (profiled last week). Info: www.gltf.org.

Also, Golden Gate Wrestling Club's 18th annual Memorial Day

weekend tournament will be at Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood, in the Castro, Friday through Sunday, May 23-25 (profiled next week). Info: www.gwgc.org.

Next month, GLBTQ Pride weekend will include a Frontrunners Fun Run, SF Fog's rugby tournament, the Team SF and Bay Area athletic contingent marching (Got medals? Show 'em off!), and oh yeah, my photo and feature on Gay Games VI in *Pride '03* magazine. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

at (510) 763-6323 or Jane Meyer at (510) 653-3770.

May 16-18, the infamous Bay to Breakers traverses our fair city. For more info, visit www.bayto-breakers.com.

Upcoming running events include the 24th annual San Francisco Pride Run at Golden Gate Park, June 28. Register online through Active.com for the 2003

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 247024

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Julie's Deli Restaurant. Located at: 4689 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Minh Tang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 27, 2001.
MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266589-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Caylen's Catering. 2646 45th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bren Caylen Boyd. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 20, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/02/2003.
MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03- 540669

In the Matter of the Application of Robin Alison Gilmore For change of Name. The application of Robin Alison Gilmore for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robin Alison Gilmore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikal Robin Gilmore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266758-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Luna Lounge And Nightclub. 1192 Folsom Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Ignacio Luna Jr. president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 08, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2003.
MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266797-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Market Street Mailhouse. 2215 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christopher M. Diem. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 09, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2003.
MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266722-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Paradise Landscapes. 54 Middlepoint Road San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paradise Vaovasa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2003.
MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266511-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Green Street Communications. 2014 Green Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Phuoc Lam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.
MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266070-00

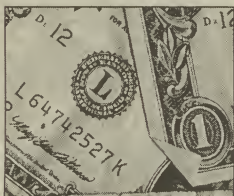
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rendezvous Cafe. 1760 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Antonio Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/14/2003.
MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266681-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pot Drain Company. This business is conducted by an individual signed Antonio Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 06, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/06/2003.
MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Cardona Maria, Segura Gonzalo. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 474 Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Type of license Applied for:
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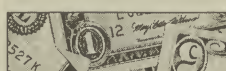
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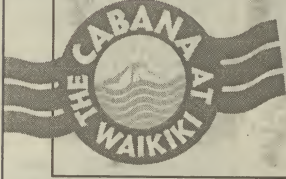
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PUBLIC HEARING

San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission (SFLAFCO) is scheduled to hold a public
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For more information, please contact Monica Fish, Committee Clerk, 415-554-7702.

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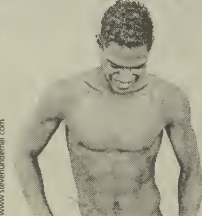


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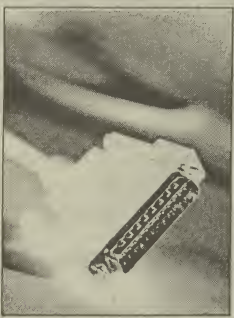
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On Sunday, May 18th, wear your red AIDS ribbon upside down, and share the vision for an HIV preventive vaccine.

To learn more about HIV preventive vaccines, visit www.aidsinfo.nih.gov or call 1-800-HIV-0440 for a free brochure.



A history of censorship in America
'Forbidden Films' chronicles the history
of 125 censored or banned motion pictures.
page 34

Extreme sex appeal
Eifman Ballet's 'Red
Giselle' is driven by Eros.
page 28



Crabtree lives on
'When Pigs Fly' is the
costumer's best epitaph.
page 29



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 20 • 15 May 2003

'Funny Girlz' gone wild

by Adam Sandel

a Muslim, a grandma and a lesbian cop go into a bar...

This year's *Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor* (May 17 at the Herbst Theatre) will feature the most diverse lineup of comics in the show's five-year history. "A lot of comedy

shows in town are white, a lot of them are male," says producer and comic Lisa Geduldig. "We're trying to do something different."

Funny Girlz presents the US debut of Shazia Mirza, the world's first female Muslim comic; 87-year-old Esther Weintraub, who's billed as a "sit-down" comic; African American Diane Amos, known to TV fans as the Pine Sol Lady; Chicana performance artist Maria Elena Fernandez; and the Bay Area's favorite lesbian cop and comic, Amy Boyd.

The London-based Mirza has created as much international media buzz as controversy. The subject of a BBC special, an NPR story and an upcoming profile in *The New York Times*, Mirza will go on to New York gigs and the Conan O'Brien show after making her *Funny Girlz* debut.

The post-9/11 world has given Mirza plenty

of grist for her comic mill. "Anyone with a mustache is a target. My mum was attacked," she says. In March, she received a death threat from Islamic militants who took offense at her act. "I had to go on stage with two armed bodyguards," she says.

At 27, she's the youngest comic on the *Funny Girlz* bill, but culturally speaking, everything is relative. "You think that's young?" says Mirza. "My mom says, 'No one is going to want to marry you now.' She's been trying to marry me off since I was 18... months old."

Geduldig, who has also produced the *Kung Pao Kosher Comedy* show for the past 11 years, has found that world events have affected her comedy as well. Although she usually draws upon her experience

as a lesbian (and her mother's reactions

to it), the comic says, "I've gotten a lot more political with my come-

page 30 ►



London-based Shazia Mirza



Bay Area lesbian cop and comic Amy Boyd

Scott Wells and Gitta Sivander danced at 848 Community Space.



Dangerous intimacy

Scott Wells, Nancy Karp companies dance

by Michael Wade Simpson

On any given night in San Francisco, a fancy, imported dance company may be taking the stage at Zellerbach Hall or Yerba Buena, while the local companies make do with a variety of other performance spaces. Last weekend, Nancy Karp + Dancers celebrated its 24th Anniversary in the relatively deluxe quarters of Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason, while the Scott Wells Company danced on the walls, ceiling, kitchen and doorways of the tiny live/work venue at 848 Community Space. Interestingly enough, it was the Wells dancers who triumphed artistically, not in spite of but because of their confines.

At 848, the audience sits on four rows of folding chairs and the front row is pillows. The nearly claustrophobic performance space brought

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Frameline leaks to OT

Tidbits on Busch, Dukakis, Posey, Culkin

by Roberto Friedman

The 27th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival is currently on base and ready to swing out, June 12-29! As always, the Frameline press conference is slated for next week at the exact time the local gay press goes to press. Thanks, dailies! But, as if in recompense, our good friends at Frameline leaked a little bit of dishy inside info to Out There, so that BAR readers might have an early peak at what's in store.

Charles Busch's newest spectacle *Die Mommie Die* is lined up to be the Opening Night film. Busch plays bitter fading starlet Angela Arden, whose children are plotting a murderous revenge. The film also stars Jason Priestley, Natasha Lyonne and Frances Conroy of *Six Feet Under*. Busch and Priestley are expected to attend the opening and party, at the newly restored Paerie, we mean Ferry Building. A rabid cult of Conroy fans are hoping she also appears.

Frameline will present a significant sidebar showcasing the recent resurgence in the cinema of AIDS. They will present Louise Horgath's documentary *The Gift*, about "bug chasers," men actively seeking the HIV virus. San Francisco STOP AIDS Project will conduct a community forum following the screening. Other documentaries include *Pandemic: Facing AIDS*, about the heroes and victims around the world in the fight against the disease, and *Fight Back Fight AIDS*, which documents 15 years of ACT-UP.

The Festival will also screen Thom Fitzgerald's new film *The Event*, starring Olympia Dukakis and Parker Posey in a tale of a man with AIDS ready to end it all, with a little help from his friends. Death with dignity figures as well in Tony Ayres' debut feature *Walking on Water*. Frameline will also present 10th anniversary

Olympia Dukakis in *The Event*

screenings of *Philadelphia* and *And the Band Played On*.

Happy 21st birthday to Marc Huestis' underground camp classic *Whatever Happened to Susan Jane*, about two old friends tearing through San Francisco's social scene in the early '80s. If you know this film, you might remember that a young Edward Guthmann was a co-writer of the film and makes an appearance as a television reporter. He later went on to portray Tallulah

Bankhead on the San Francisco stage.

Frameline will be presenting *Isn't It Obvious?*, a short film tribute to Gwen Araujo by Fremont filmmaker Michelle Prevost. The question was Gwen's response to her attackers when they asked her if she was male or female. These were some of Gwen's last words. The tribute is in two short film programs: *Reel Transformations*, a collection of short films on transgender themes; and *Since You've Been Gone*, memorials to four members of the queer community who have recently passed away.

This year's Frameline Award will be presented to Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato at a screening of their new film *Party Monster*, starring Macaulay



Seth Green as James St. James

Culkin and Seth Green in the true-life story of the disco bloodbath in the NYC club scene of the early '90s. Rumors abound about whether Culkin, so recently of *Will & Grace*, will appear. Bailey and Barbato will sit down for an interview with film writer Margo Jefferson of *The New York Times*.

Out There is pleased to note that the fest will be screening Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau's *My Life on Ice*, our discovery last month at the London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

More queer

Things are definitely heating up, queer culturally, in San Francisco. The National Queer Arts Festival released the details of its 2003 edition. Highlights include Latina legends Marga Gomez, Monica Palacios and Carmelita Tropicana in *Comedy, Por Favor*, 6/12-15 at SomArts Theater; Joe Goode Performance Group in *Folk*, a world premiere, and *Transparent Body*, 6/19-29 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater; and *The Forgetfulness of Being*, a cycle of video projections by SF artist Rudy Lemcke at the opening night "gay-la," The Q-Ball, Sat., 5/31 at the Community Center, 1800 Market St. Schedule at queerculturalcenter.org.

Swish knives

From the Dept. of Corrections which Double as Retroactive Swats on the Behind (in the corrections column of the *NY Times*): "A film review in *Weekend* yesterday about *The Trip* misspelled the brand name of steak knives often advertised on television as a bonus — an extra to which the story's third act was compared. The brand is Ginsu, not Ginza." Gee, gulp, thanks for the mini-review.

Rear maneuvers

With manboy popstar Justin Timberlake in Londontown on his *Justified* world tour, the UK *Guardian's* Peter Robinson tries to justify JT's appeal: "There are straight men for whom Justin has replaced Jude Law as the only man they'd actually shag, and there are gay men sent into a tailspin of eye-watering frustration."

"There's the Justin who innocently tells prying radio interviewers that his fans are interested in his music, but who also pulls off a triumphant Kylie [Minogue] Arse Manoeuvre and whips his tits out for a mind-boggling *Rolling Stone* cover shoot."

"Throw in events like the self-consciously controversial Britney [Spears]-baiting video for 'Cry Me a River,' and it's clear that

next page ►

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THEATRE

What's up next?

NCTC '03-'04 season announced

by Richard Dodds

n announcing New Conservatory Theatre Center's 9th Pride season for its three theaters, Artistic Director Ed Decker says that mirth will be revered and bleakness avoided in these politically and economically strained times. "We all need to get out and have a good time," Decker said. "Forget our troubles for a while."

The 2003-04 NCTC season, billed as *Landscape of Desire*, is made up of eight mainstage productions, including two world premieres, plus four co-productions apart from the subscription package.

The mainstage season will open Aug. 23 with the West Coast premiere of *Kilt*. Jonathan Wilson's romantic comedy connects a Scottish family through an heirloom quilt, once worn by a Glaswegian soldier and now the property of his grandson, who wears it as a gimmick in his job as an exotic dancer at a gay bar.

Next up is the Bay Area premiere of *Salami/Shalom*. . . *A Tale of Passion*, opening Oct. 2. Saleem Azzouqa's drama tells the tale of the forbidden love between two men: a Palestinian and an Israeli.

Charles Busch (*Psycho Beach Party*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*) created a rare non-drag role for himself in *You Should Be So Lucky*, opening Oct. 15. The screwball comedy centers on a timid gay electrologist who accidentally electrocutes a client who turns out to have left him a for-

tune in his will.

Breakfast with Scot, the first of two world premieres, opens Jan. 24. NCTC commissioned Michael Downing to adapt his novel, the comedic tale of a gay couple who become the shocked foster parents of an 11-year-old budding queen.

Seduction, another commission, is the second world premiere, opening Jan. 31. Jack Heifner (*Vanities*) has created an all-male, gay version of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, a 10-scene play of evolving seductions.

The recent musical based on, and named after, the 1994 film *A Man of No Importance* will have its West Coast premiere in a concert production on March 13. Adapted by Terrence McNally (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*) and

with songs by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (*Ragtime*), the musical follows the awakening of nascent gay pride in a middle-aged Dubliner in 1964.

Dirty Blonde, opening April 24, is Claudia Shear's comedy about two loners who find unexpected connections through their mutual appreciation of Mae West.

The Pride season will conclude with the Bay Area premiere of *Southern Baptist Sissies*, opening May 15, 2004. Del Shores' comedy-drama explores the lives of four gay men in Texas coming to terms with their strict religious upbringing.

Spanked! is the title of the first of four co-productions. Opening Aug. 22, the play uses spanking as a metaphor in a portrait of the ro-



David Drake brings *Son of Dracula*.

Vando's one-man exploration of what it means to be a *ManLady*. Vando uses movement, poetry, and storytelling to come up with a new image of masculinity.

Noted New York solo artist David Drake (*The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*) offers his new one-man show, *Son of Dracula*, opening Oct. 15. Born as David Drakula, Drake explores his Transylvanian roots in an ongoing search for identity.

The final co-production, opening Nov. 21, returns the harmonizing Kinsey Sicks to New Conservatory in their new ecumenical holiday show, *Oy Vey in a Manger!*

Subscriptions for Pride Season 9 are \$120-\$280. For more information, call 861-8972. ▼

Out There

◀ previous page

Timberlake oozes fierce ambition and marketing savvy that make **Madonna** look like **Lisa Stansfield**. Woof!



A star of *Winged Migration*

For the birds

Avian wonders will be presented both in screen and live in theaters during the opening weekend for the new nature documentary *Winged Migration* at Bay Area Landmark Theatres, with special appearances by a live red-shoulder hawk and presentations by Wildcare and The International Bird Rescue Research Center. The hawk will appear for audiences on Friday, May 16 at the Clay Theatre in SF; Friday, May 23 at the Aquarius Theatre in Palo Alto; and Saturday, May 24 at the Albany Twin in the East Bay, held before the 7 p.m. show at each theater. Info at www.landmark-theatres.com.

Producer **Jacques Perrin** (*Himalaya*, *Microcosmos*) followed bird migrations through 40 countries and seven continents. The film was an Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary Feature.

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Tawdry pleasures

Extreme sex appeal of the Eifman Ballet

by Stephanie von Buchau

As some cruel wit put it last Wednesday when we were reveling in the tawdry pleasures of the Eifman Ballet's *Red Giselle* at the Palace of Fine Arts, "This is like the Smuin Ballet, only with a bigger budget and better dancers." By that comparison, of course, they meant that Boris Eifman's sensibilities are predicated on entertainment rather than artistic values, and that everything is drenched in sex.

Well, we cannot live by Art alone, though it seems ironic that all four of the full-length Eifman ballets I've seen — he's been coming to San Francisco since 1999 — have had as a major theme the subjugation of Art by outside events — reactionary politics, uncontrolled sexual urges, crude market forces. No one who loves opera, ballet or legitimate theater will disagree that Art is in danger; it's just slightly discomfiting to be told the news by someone who is mightily entertaining you with colorful costumes, smoke machines and sexy dancing.

On the other hand, Eifman is as Russian as St. Petersburg, where his 25-year-old company is officially called The Saint Petersburg Academic Ballet Theater. And Russian high art has always aspired to entertain "the people." The Soviets instituted "tractor art" for the workers (who, predictably, hated it). Composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky understood that, if he wanted to be loved rather than just admired, he'd better write romantic operas that the middle class could comprehend, rather than just the complex chamber music and symphonies he preferred. Ironically again, it is his full-length ballets that are not only his most popular works, but also his artistic masterpieces.

Boris Eifman is a musical magpie and no fool, so Tchaikovsky generally supplies much of the music for his psychodramas. In *Red Giselle*, subtitled *In Tribute to Olga Spessivtseva* after the legendary Maryinsky/Soviet ballerina who went mad and spent 20 years in a New Jersey mental institution, there is manic music from "Serenade for Strings" to accompany the opening sequence where young ballerinas at the Maryinsky are terrorized by the eccentric "Teacher" (Oleg Markov). He stalks around the practice salon, whacking the girls



Red Giselle, a tribute to a legendary Soviet ballerina who went bonkers.

with his long baton and making them cry.

He picks out one promising "Ballerina" (Vera Arbutzova) and, to Tchaikovsky's dramatic "The Tempest," makes her into a star. But lurking in the wings is a "Secret Police Agent" (Albert Galichanin), and, as he seduces the Ballerina with his virile, violent presence, the music changes to the throbbing, erotic "Ritual" of the late Alfred Schnittke. The recorded music is played at too high a volume, but Eifman uses it with brutal efficiency; when he's finished with a scene, the music stops, whether it is ready to or not.

Hunka burning love

Eifman's dancers have been handpicked for virtuosity, versatility — *Red Giselle* employs classical ballet steps, ethnic folk, modern ballet and pop dances such as the Charleston — and extreme sex appeal. His charismatic star, the Keanu Reeves-like Igor Markov, seems to have defected to a Polish company (wouldn't you love to know what that was all

about?) just as Eifman got ready to give the world premiere in Boston of *Who's Who?*, his *Some Like it Hot* adaptation, in March. No matter, he has a new hunka-hunka in Alexey Turko, who plays the "Partner," loosely based on several resolutely gay male dancers (Lifar, Dolin, even Nijinsky) on whom the romantically deluded Spessivtseva apparently had major crushes.

Whatever, Galichanin appears in a black leather vest, his bulging biceps and cruel Caesar haircut signifying appealing sexual brutality, while Turko wears white, also with bulging biceps and an obscenely unprotective dance belt that concealed nothing. He's also over six feet, which is extremely unusual in a leading male dancer. I'm not sure about his classical poise, but he's mastered the intricacies of the Eifman pas de deux in which the ballerina is twisted like a pretzel in one erotic pose after another, over, under, around and above her male partner. It is vulgar, graphic and hot, but unlike Smuin's vulgarities, the heat predominates, and burns away most scruples you might have about enjoying such obvious sadism towards a tender ballerina figure.

Eventually, seeing her Partner nuzzling a handsome young man, the Ballerina cracks up and hallucinates her most famous role, *Giselle*. Here the music is Adam's traditional score, but skewed somehow by Boris Asafiev; hearing it only once I couldn't tell exactly how he made the finales of both acts so "spooky." The Ballerina does the traditional *Giselle* steps in potted form while also commenting on them in respect to her real life. Arbutzova was powerfully effective, especially if you know the original. Yet my companion, ignorant of the sources and historical background, found the whole thing entertaining in its own right, which is exactly what Eifman intends. ▼



Eifman's dancers have been handpicked for virtuosity and versatility.

THEATRE

Embracing your inner 'Pigs'

'Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly*' has its Bay Area premiere

by Richard Dodds

After seeing a "horribly distorted" production of Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly* in London, Mark Waldrop now avoids most productions of the revue he helped create.

"This show is so important to me," said the co-author and director of the 1996 off-Broadway production. "Seeing it in London was one of the most excruciating experiences of my life. They didn't see the sweetness of the show, and played it in a very vulgar way. And the gentleman who directed it was not a gay man, so he really didn't understand that whole aspect of the show." He's also updated some lyrics for the NCTC production.

But Waldrop is breaking his no-pigs rule to see the show's Bay Area premiere at the New Conservatory Theatre Center this weekend. "I can tell that they get it," he said of the NCTC production, "and I can tell their hearts are really in the right place."

For Waldrop, *When Pigs Fly* is wrapped up in emotions that go beyond the usual affection of a creator for his project. The show was the final and most successful project in a long collaboration between Crabtree and Waldrop that ended when Crabtree died of AIDS only days before its opening. "It was a huge, crying shame," he said of Crabtree's death at age 41. "He was finally getting the kind of recognition he dreamed of."

Crabtree was a costume designer, but that alone would not garner the title-billing he receives. First of all, "costumes" is far too ordinary to describe the elaborate, witty, and off-the-wall creations that Crabtree created. And secondly, in most cases, the costumes themselves provided the inspiration for the songs and dialogue that would accompany them.

In a number titled "Wear Your Vanity with Pride," as 18th-century courtesans rise from their van-

ities, their vanities rise with them to become part of elaborate period gowns. And in "Light in the Loafers," a pair of Broadway hoofers do a song-and-dance about the need to butcher it up at auditions, before letting lights literally shine from their loafers.

While "Light in the Loafers" uses technology Crabtree created for an earlier show, the song was actually written by Waldrop and composer Dick Gallagher shortly after Crabtree had died. It was partly a thank-you from Waldrop to Crabtree for giving him the courage to officially come out as gay in the professional theater world.

"That was a threshold that took me a long time to cross," said Waldrop, who has gone on to direct Bette Midler's most recent concert tour and Bea Arthur's solo Broadway show.

When *Pigs Fly* was inspired by Crabtree's own experiences as a young gay man struggling with issues of self-acceptance while also trying to disprove a high-school career counselor who told him that he would be a show-business success only "when pigs fly."

The show was well-received and ran for two years in New York. But there haven't been the numerous subsequent productions that, say, *Forever Plaid* and *Nunsense* have received.

"The budget for the costumes can be daunting," Waldrop said. "Howard built the costumes himself on an amazingly low budget, like \$15,000. When the producers went to a costume shop to get an estimate of what it would cost to make a second set, it was well over \$100,000."

For the San Francisco production, Waldrop sent whatever photos and designs he had to director Earl Weaver and costumer Van Hedwall. Several of the original costumes, including the wearable vanities, will be used here for probably the final time.

Crabtree likened his shows to "Disney on drugs," but it was just a metaphor, Waldrop said. "We



Howard Crabtree asked, 'What if?'

were never stoned, but sometimes we did have cocktails. But really, we got high off each other. Our big phrase was, 'What if?' We would just pursue it to its logical or illogical conclusion, and just make each other laugh. And we did laugh. It's just tragic to me that I don't have him to do that with anymore."

For more information on *When Pigs Fly*, call NCTC at 861-8972.

Dykes and divas

Two theaters are shining their spotlights on women this month, with 3D - *Dyke Drama Days* at Theatre Rhino and *DIVAfest* at the Exit Theatre.

Nine plays, solo shows, and cabaret turns will be running in repertory fashion at the annual *DIVAfest*, running May 22-31 on the four stages of Exit's two downtown theaters. One high-

light is the premiere of *E.O. 9066*, a new work by Leibe Wetzel and her Lunatique Fantastique puppetry troupe about the forced resettlement of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Call 673-3847 or go to www.divafest.org for a full schedule.

Dyke Drama Days at Theatre Rhino will run May 19-22 with staged readings of new lesbian plays by Lori Kaye, Terry Baum, Julie Jensen, and Patricia Cotter. The four-day series inaugurates Rhino's new play-reading program that includes a Q&A session each evening. Admission is free; call 861-5079 or go to www.the-rhino.org.

Color-coordinated

Diversity is the hallmark of OUT/RAGE, a new performance collective of gay and bi men, reflecting both the group's make-up and its theatrical mission of addressing race and racism in the gay community.

What *Color Is Your Fag?*, the group's first work-in-progress production, will be presented May 16 -17 at the Jon Sims Center. Created from workshops, the piece will encourage audience participation. "These men are not interested in just being spectacles," reports OUT/RAGE.

Call 437-1373 for reservations. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



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Being Richard Kwietniowski

Talking with 'Owning Mahowny' director

by David Lamble

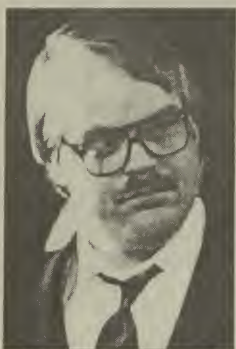
A very proper British couple stand in a museum in front of a painting of a dead boy, one Thomas Chatterton, an English poet who took his life at 18 when he couldn't support himself by his writing. The flaming red hair of the dead boy-poet jumps out at us, the way his left hand is frozen, lying across his chest in a pose that is simultaneously innocent and yet tantalizingly erotic. The woman speaks to the man in a slightly condescending way, as if she were the Queen.

"What's meant to be going on — love letters, suicide, that sort of thing?"

"More likely to be rejections from publishers," says the man. "Chatterton was a writer."

When John Hurt agreed to Richard Kwietniowski's request that he play the reclusive writer Giles De'Ath (people enjoy taunting him with the misnomer "Mr. Death"), he pointed out that the script contained at least five belly laughs, adding that if you can get an audience to laugh out loud that often, you can take them almost anywhere.

Indeed, Kwietniowski's first feature, *Love and Death on Long Island*, takes us for quite a ride: across a couple of centuries, one rather large ocean, and the even greater sensibility gap that divides



Hoffman plays Dan Mahowny

the Pre-Raphaelites from the age of *Dawson's Creek*.

On a chance trip to the cinema, the 60-year-old De'Ath finds himself staring in disbelief at a puerile teenage sex romp, *Hot Pants College II*. Suddenly, he's struck dumb by the sight of beauty, like Aschenbach at the first sighting of young Tadzio. *Love and Death* does become in part a *Death in Venice* spoof, with Hurt's Giles turning Bambi-in-the-headlights from a crush on an American B-movie actor (Jason Priestly), who, to him, echoes the painting of the tragic Chatterton: "Winsome, young, neo-Classical, isolated by beauty, death."

Job tips

Unassuming in person like his film characters, a man who might fade into the background at a gallery opening or a leather bar, the balding and affable Kwietniowski takes great pains to walk a novice through the tricky currents of his 12-letter surname. Raised in London by a Polish father and a mother with French roots, Kwietniowski takes pride in not having gone to film school. He does admit to knocking over a water glass or two at TV job interviews to change the subject when the question of his directing credentials arose.

Kwietniowski's fascination for non-charismatic figures is continued in his second feature, *Owning Mahowny*, about a mid-level Cana-

dian banker-turned-gambling addict. Adept at depicting the passions of men who would seem to possess none at all, Philip Seymour Hoffman is splendid as Dan Mahowny, a silver-tongued loan officer who feels truly alive only when he's losing other people's money. Hurt is chilling as the reptilian floor boss of an Atlantic City casino who's determined to crack the icy cool of his biggest high roller; and Minnie Driver is the woman who stands by her man. The film is a spoof of the foxes who are often appointed to guard the chicken coop of our life savings.

The director admits that his approach to telling the true story of one of the biggest bank frauds in modern Canadian history struck even some potential film investors as a tad unorthodox.

"You have a guy who's visibly wrestling with his demons, and living this fabulous Jekyll-and-Hyde double-life," says Kwietniowski. "To me, it seemed much more interesting to tell the story in such a low-key way that the character is exactly the same, whether he's working in the bank or at play in the casino. He doesn't really answer to any stereotypical notion of the addict, somebody who's trying to conceal things or con people."

"But I did something similar with *Love and Death*, because when I was trying to raise money for it, a lot of people said, 'We don't understand the central character's motivation between pages 30 & 40.' To which I'd say, 'Well, neither does the central character.' I've seen a lot of films where central characters are out of control, or are motivated in ways that they don't question, which we also



Kwietniowski has a fascination with non-charismatic leading figures.

don't question. Most Hitchcock films are that way."

Kwietniowski lights up when he explains why he could only see one actor playing Mahowny: Hoffman. "I wanted him to be overweight rather than underweight, I wanted him to like junk food, to drive a cheap car. Then I happened to see *Magnolia* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley* within a week of each other. Philip is an actor who I always enjoyed, but he's not really thought of as a lead actor. But I saw these two parts, he plays an angel in one and a rather creepy guy in the other. Even if he plays a pervert, there's a certain kind of vulnerability and openness there that's why audiences really love him. He can draw you into any situation, no matter how

perverse. I got excited by the idea of asking such an open actor to play an enigma."

The very "bum-in-a-suit invisibility" of Hoffman's Mahowny also needed a light sprinkle of laughs. "There's one point when he's arguing over having to pay \$5 for a bag at the airport. There's a Learjet waiting for him on the tarmac to whisk him down to Atlantic City, where there's \$1.4 million waiting for him to play with, and the crew is waiting for him, and he's arguing over spending five bucks, saying, 'Would you take two?' And this is so wonderfully perverse that you just have to laugh." ▼

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Funny Girlz

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dy since 9/11."

This led to her organizing *Make Laugh, Not War*, a politically-minded evening of comedy that raised nearly \$1,500 last month for SF Independent Media. "People need to laugh," says Geduldig. "That evening was a great outlet for both the performers and the audience. Comedy can be really cathartic."



Lisa Geduldig: 'really cathartic.'

For the past nine years, Diane Amos has made a good living selling Pine Sol to America, but her roots are in San Francisco's gay community. Being raised by a Jewish mom and an African American mom raised plenty of eyebrows and questions over the years.

"When they'd see us together, people wondered, 'Is that a



Diane Amos: raised by lesbians.

woman traveling with her maid and her kids?" she says.

"The gay community has to make its own families," says Amos, noting that being raised by lesbian mothers gave her an appreciation of extended families. "It taught me that it's okay to be myself, because I saw a lot of people being themselves when it wasn't popular. My mother had two daughters, and both of us turned out straight," she laughs. "She still says, 'Where did I go wrong?'"

Packing a piece

Amy Boyd has made a career out of being herself, but claims that she didn't choose comedy, it chose her. "I'm kind of quirky," she says. "If I didn't have that comic outlet, I'd be that weird person down in Accounting."

At the tender age of 18, Boyd made her standup debut on Open Mike Night at a San Diego lesbian

bar. "I tried it, it worked, and I kept going back," she says. "It's kind of like coming out, when you say, 'I'm a comedian,' and it feels very good and natural."

Landing a spot in the 1991 gay comedy video *Out for Laughs* brought Boyd to San Francisco. "I came up to shoot it, I loved the Bay Area, and I never left," she says. "There was an explosion of gay comedy at the time," she recalls. "Tom Ammann, Marga Gomez, and Margaret Cho were all performing, and it was a great experience."

Boyd became a police officer in 1999: "I entered the new millennium with a bang — literally." After being profiled in the *Oakland Tribune*, her dual careers as comic and cop collided. "I had to go into a house full of bad guys, and one of them said, 'Hey, you're that comic!' It totally broke the ice," she says. "By the end of the call, we were all laughing."

Boyd's partner is also a police officer, but she claims that it doesn't cause much friction in the relationship. "She works for Highway Patrol, and I work for the city. We don't fight about things, we just argue about jurisdiction."

Whether you're amused by cha cha feminists, funny grandmas, madcap Muslims or cut-up cops, *Funny Girlz* is bound to please. As Geduldig promises, "This show has something for everyone." ▼

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Puff of air

'Une Femme Est une Femme' at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

When Jean-Luc Godard's third feature, *Une Femme Est une Femme* (*A Woman Is a Woman*), hit the 1961 art-house and festival circuit, it was an instant hit. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Berlin, and its star, Anna Karina, was named Best Actress. She would wed Godard, and together they made seven movies. Andrew Sarris in the *Village Voice* compared them to Von Sternberg and Dietrich, then lauded the film because it "employs all the resources of the cinema to express the exquisite agony of heterosexual love." Forty-two years later, the movie seems charming and light, but more style than substance. It plays the Castro May 16-22.

Angela and Emile Recamier (Karina and Jean-Claude Brialy) live in Paris. He runs a small bookshop/magazine stand, and she's a stripper at the seedy Zodiac Club. Rather unexpectedly, she tells him she wants a baby, and that they must conceive that very day. Understandably surprised, Emile agrees to father a child, but not then and there. Angela is insistent. They argue, and he dares her to conceive with the first man she sees. She agrees, but changes her mind when two French government agents knock on the door, investigating a terrorist incident.

Eventually, Angela decides that if Emile won't father her child, she will ask Alfred Lubitsch (Jean Paul Belmondo). Alfred is more than interested—he thinks he's in love with her. She makes it clear she is not in love with him. Eventually, she lets him seduce her—three vermouths and a Charles Aznavour record do the trick.

A guilty Angela confesses to Emile, who is silent about having just slept with a prostitute. They lie down together in bed. Emile is depressed when Angela tells him she is certain she has conceived. Simultaneously, they hit on the solution to their dilemma: if they have sex that night, the child could just as well be Emile's.

Lollipop land

This serious subject is treated light-heartedly and unemotionally. It's filmed in lollipop colors, has a lively score, and is filled with references to MGM musicals; American Westerns; Godard's own *Breathless* (1959), which propelled Belmondo to fame; and Francois Truffaut's *Jules et Jim* (1960) and *Shoot the Piano Player* (1960). (Jeanne Moreau and Marie Dubois, stars of those films, appear briefly.) Even the names of the characters are referential. Lubitsch was the acclaimed '30s Hollywood director, known for his "light" touch. Madame Recamier, the famous Napoleonic-era beauty, reportedly never slept with her rich husband; charmed her admirers, including Chateaubriand; but died a virgin.

Karina's Angela is beautiful, cheerful, self-involved, unscathed by her profession, and surprised by Emile's hesitation to comply with her request. She works because Emile doesn't earn enough to support them, yet doesn't think about how they will live once the baby is born. The magnetic Brialy is less ebullient and plausibly bewildered by the turn of events. The sexy Belmondo seems to be having a good time. A girl



Anna Karina's Angela is beautiful, cheerful, and self-involved.

could do worse than having to choose between Brialy and Belmondo—or bedding them both.

The title comes from a pun on the French word *infame*—another "in" joke. The movie rises like a soufflé in which the chef added

one or two extra egg-whites, but skimmed on the filling. It looks lovely, makes the audience smile, and leaves it longing for heartier fare. *Bifteck avec pommes frites* and a ripe Douglas Sirk melodrama, anyone? ▼



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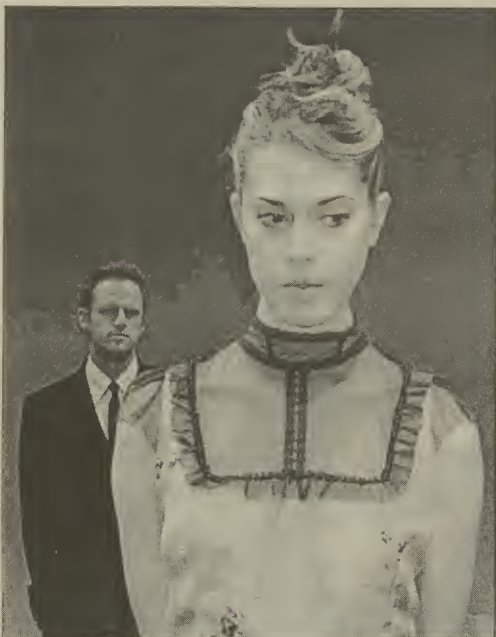
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'A season of lunacy': Lucy Owen as Katharine Hilbery in *Night and Day*.

Woolf tracks

'Night and Day' at the Transparent Theater

by Richard Dodds

The drama of mathematics, exemplified by the play *Proof*, has been a popular device of late. But in 1919, Virginia Woolf created a heroine who found strength in numbers. The rich, beautiful, and privileged Katharine Hilbery of *Night and Day* much prefers working on equations than reading good books — or falling in love, for that matter. In mathematics, she reasons, the follies of human emotions can't change the results.

When another character accuses her of hating all books, she frostily counters, "It would be absurd to say I hate all books when I've only read 10."

Transparent Theatre is presenting a new stage adaptation of *Night and Day* written and directed by Artistic Director Tom Clyde. While the novel has been radical-

ly pared, it remains a coherent story that communicates Woolf's concerns about love, life, and the educational unshackling of women. The tale is strong enough to counter many of the strange choices that Clyde, as director, has made.

On stage, *Night and Day* becomes a romantic roundelay during what one character calls "a season of lunacy." In the case of Katharine (Lucy Owen), there are two men (Jason Frazier and Noah James Butler) declaiming their love, but she challenges their ability to know love when they can't know the person she believes herself to be. Providing a counterpart to Katharine and her pampered world is Mary Datchet (Chloe Bronzan), who has chosen work over leisure, and both women find themselves envying the other's position.

Clyde has directed his adaptation on a stage bare except for a couple of chairs and what look to be tulle-covered bungee cords running from ceiling to stage floor. Throughout the play, various characters in their period fin-

ery crouch into unflattering positions to hook the cords into new arrangements. It's a clumsy and obvious device to suggest the characters' changing connections, and it also slows things down — as does the excess of to-and-fro stomping about the stage accompanied by what sounds like a synthesized harpsichord. More curious and distracting is the choice to give a movie camera to a character in uncharacteristically contemporary garb that he uses in voyeuristic fashion.

Even so, as we get to know the characters, and understand the performers' interpretations, the story takes hold. The play provides an intriguing glimpse into the world of Virginia Woolf, a seminal figure in women's literature who is now more famous for her place in an Edward Albee title. ▼

Virginia Woolf's *Night and Day* will run through June 8 at the Transparent Theater in Berkeley. Tickets are \$20. Call (510) 883-0305.

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Michael Armstrong (standing) and Manfred Schaehtle in *Kalasam*.

Dance reviewed

◀ Arts cover

more than dangerous intimacy with Wells' brand of dance, which is more about hurling oneself through space than pointing one's toes. What was also apparent was the mastery in the ebb and flow of these dynamic explosions, the wisdom in the transitions, and the profound sense of community and relationship implied by not only the physical action, but the eye-contact involved. There was a lot of subtlety in Wells' work, and the themes of love, friendship and physicality were developed in fresh and touching ways.

In "On the Rebound," three shirtless men were involved in the continual bouncing of rubber balls. In the hands of a less-accomplished choreographer, this

would have become gimmicky and tiresome after a few minutes, but Wells was able to create an affecting emotional undercurrent to all the tossing, not to mention some juicy homoerotic content. "Together? Again?" explored friendship as two male dancers, one gay and HIV-positive, one straight and very white, examined a dancing relationship, and the emotional boundaries set up, despite the intensely physical intimacy of their work. The taped interviews, based on Wells' 10-year friendship with dancer Jesse Bie, distracted at times from the movement, but there was plenty of interesting choreography that needed no explanation.

Another new work, "Untitled," featured men in socks and women in evening gowns, the doorways, walls and ceiling as dancing

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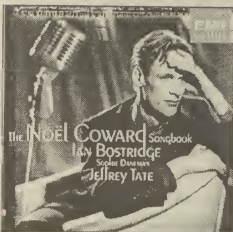
MUSIC

Coming out humming the tunes

Tenor Ian Bostridge's take on theatrical polymath Noel Coward

by Tim Pfaff

Just when his legions of fans wondered if there were anything, this side of Tristan, Ian Bostridge couldn't do, the gaunt British tenor weighed in with *The Noel Coward Songbook* (EMI Classics), which showed more of what this tirelessly resourceful singer has in him. Whether the result warranted the extravagant attention Bostridge has lavished on the project depends only on how important a body of work you think Coward's songs are.



The mere fact of this CD may require saying, again, that Bostridge is not gay. He explains his slow attraction to Coward's songs in an essay in the superbly annotated accompanying booklet, noting that the material hooked him only after he saw its similarities to that of Kurt Weill. The thought would never have occurred to me, since Weill seems a composer several orders of magnitude greater and his *Weltschmerz* fathoms deeper than the privileged, spoiled *emui* one hears in Coward's trademark "World Weary." But Bostridge's

masterful, daringly closed-miked singing makes his point convincingly, and Jeffrey Tate's piano accompaniments both push and support the singer. In the end, this superbly packaged CD is reminiscent of Teresa Stratas' landmark first Nonesuch recording of Weill songs.

Bostridge's command of the (odd) idiom puts to shame the only other Coward disc I know by another major classical singer (long before there was "crossover"). With her sexual-orientation-crossover husband, Joan Sutherland made a Coward LP with the grand old man himself. While the trio probably had a gay old time cutting the disc, it's telling that, with virtually every other note Sutherland ever piped currently available on CD, only one track from that LP has made it to CD (on Decca's *La Stupenda*).

There can't be many gay people born after Coward's death in 1973 who have a real sense of this theatrical polymath — lyricist, composer, playwright, screenwriter — who was, however thick the closet doors at the time, as obvious and open a queen as could be imagined. An untrained composer and all-around dilettante who went on to become a powerhouse of stage and screen for half a century, he has largely receded into the alcove of encased-in-amber gay icons like novelist Ronald Firbank.

If 21st-century queers aren't exactly humming his tunes, it may be because, as this challenging CD shows, Coward himself may have been one of the few people to consider them hummable. (Asked what he thought of *Oh, Coward*,

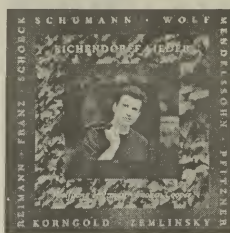
the last revue of his songs he was to hear in his own lifetime, he remarked, dryly, "I came out humming the tunes.") Coward's is hardly difficult music, but it's hardly catchy, either. It will take advocacy like Bostridge's if it is to make a mark on today's sensibilities.

The music reveals a previously unheard Bostridge. The songs' daringly low tessituras display the baritone dimensions of this singular instrument as never before, and, once gotten used to, it's a lustrous, compelling, even sexy sound. Getting deep inside songs is nothing new for Bostridge, but the extent to which he inhabits the withering bitterness of such numbers as "Let's Say Goodbye," "Never Again," and "The Party's Over Now" is enough to make your blood run backwards. In several of these most jaded of "love songs," Bostridge is partnered by soprano Sophie Daneman at her limpid best, and the results are equal parts fetching and chilling.

The show-stopper is Coward's most familiar song today, "Mad Dogs and Englishmen," to which Bostridge brings a barely moderated rage. Because, as I write, temperatures here in Bangkok have hung around 100 for weeks, perhaps I was particularly susceptible to the lines, "In Bangkok at 12 o'clock/They foam at the mouth and run./But mad dogs and Englishmen/Go out in the midday sun." Deed they do.

Faking it

If looks could sing, Wolfgang Holzmair would rule the music world, but nothing about his recordings so far have indicated anything special about this singer.



His new CD of *Eichendorff Lieder* (Philips) provided a reason to check in on him again, because, like Bostridge's, it focuses on a single "lyricist," the German Romantic poet Joseph von Eichendorff. Beyond the familiar songs by Schumann (the *Liederkreis*,

Op. 39) and Wolf, Holzmair sings little-known works by Mendelssohn, Robert Franz, Alexander Zemlinsky, Erich Korngold, Hans Pfitzner, Othmar Schoeck and contemporary composer Aribert Reimann.

Unfortunately, the interest stops with the repertoire. Enticing as much of the material is, the effect is dulled by the fakery of Holzmair's singing, particularly of the great, well-known songs, in which (at his best) he seems to be doing (unconvincing) imitations of the other great Lieder singers. Even the deep musicality and artistic individuality of his pianist partner, Imogen Cooper, is insufficient to get an honest sound out of this singer. ▼

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Misunderstood modernist

Piano music of Leo Ornstein rediscovered

by Jason Serinus

One of the most important near-forgotten composers of the last century, Leo Ornstein died last year at what is believed to have been 109 years of age. Ornstein began his musical career as a Russian child prodigy, taking his first piano lessons with Vladimir Puchalsky, later teacher of Vladimir Horowitz. He was admitted to the St. Petersburg Conservatoire at age 12 on the recommendation of the legendary pianist Joseph Hoffman. The son of a synagogue cantor, Ornstein and his family fled his native land in 1906 to escape the anti-Semitic pogroms, and settled in New York City, where Leo began lessons at what later became the Juilliard School of Music.

A year after Ornstein's concert debut in 1911 — he later gave the first US performances of music by Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Debussy, Ravel, Bartók, and Kodály — he began writing music of such ferocious modernity that some questioned his sanity. He used the piano percussively, composing such on-the-edge works as *Suicide in an Airplane*.

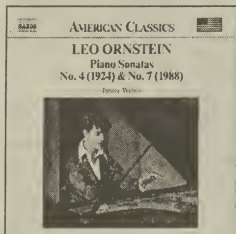
But just as, a generation later, the American composer George Antheil ("the bad boy of music") pulled back from the wildest expressions of his genius, so did

Ornstein respond to criticism by backing off. The shift came in 1915, just two years after his most radical works broke new ground. Later in life, describing this conscious change in his style, he wrote that he "had brought music just to the very edge, and I have no suicidal tendencies at all. I simply drew back and said, 'Beyond that lies complete chaos.'"



Representative selections of Ornstein's piano music have recently been issued on two discs. An immersion in Montreal-born Marc-André Hamelin's *Piano Music by Leo Ornstein* (Hyperion) shows extraordinary technique and range of emotional expression. Hamelin delivers a riveting rendition of the short, dissonant and percussive *Suicide in an Airplane* (1913), a work whose jarring chords sonically presage live video footage of the September 11 bombings. Equally astounding is

Hamelin's performance of Ornstein's *Danse sauvage*. Also written in 1913, before Ornstein became aware of Igor Stravinsky's equally percussive, riot-inducing *Rite of Spring*, its primitivism, savage cluster-chords, and foreshadowing of atonality render it one of the most startling and modern works of its time.



Propeller problems

Hamelin's achievement is highlighted by comparison with pianist Janice Weber's recent disc, *Leo Ornstein: Piano Music* (Naxos). Both musicians perform *Suicide*, *Danse*, and *Impressions de la Tamise* (*Impressions of the Thames*). Weber is a fine artist equipped with hands strong enough to do justice to Ornstein's music. But where her airplane sputters along with a series of rapid, percussive jerks, Hamelin's

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Euro roommate pudding

'L'Auberge Espagnole' ('The Spanish Apartment'), a comedy of co-hab

by David Lamble

As a kid, I was blonde and wanted to write. We can change, can't we?" At the start of Cédric Klapisch's charming new comedy of what you might call Euro-manners, Xavier (Romain Duris), his college-age protagonist, is on a fast track to hell, although admittedly a French bourgeois version of that place.

Xavier's father has given him a much-coveted invitation to a job in a multinational enterprise which is only identified by the letters ENA. We never learn exactly what they do, but it's clear that Xavier is not thrilled at the prospect of a lifetime of doing it.

Director/writer Klapisch, whom some will remember for his comedy *When the Cat's Away*, speeds up the film. We share Xavier's increasing discomfort as

he is introduced to the big cheese, shown the view from the executive suite, and even advised on the brand of double-malt Scotch he should aspire to. When his boss suggests that a good knowledge of Spanish might help him in their business, Xavier signs up for Erasmus (a student work-study program, a Euro in-joke the film never fully translates) and a year in Spain. His family's attempts to set him up in a relative's apartment fall through, and Xavier suddenly finds himself adrift in the scruffy Spanish roommate culture.

While the title *L'Auberge Espagnole* will not trip lightly off Northern Californian tongues, it's a lot closer to the truth of a delightful truffle of a film featuring a Euro pudding of sexy students than the more literal *Spanish Apartment*. French slang defines such a place as a messy, no-rules zone where you only get back



French slang defines 'L'Auberge Espagnole' as a messy, no-rules zone.

what you put in. What we get is a giddy, heartfelt tale of young men and women diving head first into a dizzying year in a crowded and shabby Barcelona flat, whose owner regards them as little better than an infestation of roaches.

Since it's Xavier's story, we mostly get bit-sized soap opera on the other flatmates: the studious

German, the dizzy Italian who leaves his granny glasses in the 'fridge over night, and the Dane, whose former girlfriend shows up at the flat with his child in a stroller.

Xavier seeks to trade in the ball-and-chain of engagement to Martine, his jealous girlfriend back in Paris (a nice bit of casting

against type for Audrey Tautou, who gets us to forget her sweet *Amelie*.) Unexpectedly, this homesick, boyishly impetuous, and hairy-chested Frenchman finds himself in heavy water when a beautiful, married French woman becomes more than a wet dream. Just before losing his mind, Xavier surrenders his pride and gets some hands-on advice, from an experienced Belgian lesbian, about what women really desire. "You guys think it's all in the cock, [but] caresses are equally important."

Another gay plot twist comes out of left field: an oafish, soccer-riot-prone, mouth-breather of a Brit, Wendy's brother (he's the guy who dies in the first two minutes of a *Six Feet Under* episode), finds himself in bed with an equally culture-challenged American stud, in a subplot that is more fun to witness than describe. ▼

Opens Friday.

Forbidden Hollywood

Censorship and the movies

by Tavo Amador

Other than being movies, what do *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *She Done Him Wrong*, *Basic Instinct*, *Last Tango in Paris*, and *Cruising* have in common? They are films that were censored, either by the infamous Hollywood Production Code or through pressure from particular groups or organizations.

While many would agree that motion pictures are the great art form of the 20th century, it took until 1952 for the Supreme Court to rule they were a form of expression covered by the First Amendment. In *Forbidden Films* (Checkmark Books, \$16.95), Dawn B. Sovia discusses the censorship history of 125 pictures. Not surprisingly, sex, especially homosexual and lesbian sex, was a paramount concern among censors.

The forward by Marjorie Heins of the National Coalition Against Censorship and Sovia's introduction provide a brief history of the legal battles and changing perspectives resulting in the Supreme Court's landmark decision, which centered on Roberto Rossellini's *The Miracle*. That movie, about a simple Italian peasant who believed she had been impregnated by her favorite saint, was censored in New York State because it was "sacrilegious" and offensive to Catholics. Justice Tom Clark disagreed, writing that films may "possess a greater capacity for evil... than other forms of expression," but insisting that wasn't enough to deny them the First Amendment's protections.

Prior to this ruling, Hollywood had for nearly two decades enforced its own misogynistic and homophobic Motion Picture Production Code. That evolved into the current ratings system, which is flawed, but at least allows movies to be shown without fear of seizure by local authorities. Nonetheless, censorship forces continue to operate, using boycotts and other threats to control

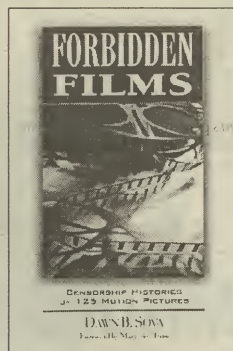
the content of movies.

The movie version of the openly gay Tennessee Williams' stage triumph, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951), perhaps the greatest play ever written by an American, was compromised by censors. They insisted on cutting Blanche's affecting speech recounting how she accidentally found her young husband in bed with an older man, then later confronted him about it, her harsh words driving him to suicide. That tragedy has haunted her ever since, exacerbating her loneliness and desperate need for love, and is crucial to understanding her character.

Cruising for bruising

Decades later, openly gay people were portrayed on the screen, which in turn triggered different censorship issues. William Friedkin's *Cruising* (1980) and Paul Verhoeven's *Basic Instinct* (1992) both faced censorship because of their perceived negative representations of gay men and lesbians, respectively. In the former, Al Pacino plays an undercover policeman investigating murders in Manhattan's S&M gay male world. Homosexual groups, including the National Gay Task Force and San Francisco's Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club, protested vehemently over what they claimed was a "homophobic" depiction of a "sex-obsessed... gay life." Pressured, Friedkin released the movie with a disclaimer: "This film is not an indictment of the homosexual world. It is set in one small segment of that world, which is not meant to be representative of the whole." *Cruising* opened to terrible reviews and flopped at the box-office.

Basic Instinct, filmed in San Francisco, faced militant protests from ACT UP and Queer Nation. They claimed that "the murderous lesbian character (Sharon Stone) caters to public homophobia and incites gay-bashing." They also insisted that it was "absurd to argue the First Amendment in



this case because it presumes equality." Unlike *Cruising*, *Basic Instinct* was a hit.

Frank heterosexual coupling, nudity, and raw language led to Bernardo Bertolucci's *Last Tango in Paris* (1972) getting an X rating, but that didn't stop the Marlon Brando vehicle from earning critical and box-office success.

Forty years earlier, censors prevented Mae West's *Lady Lou* character in *She Done Him Wrong* (1933) from being shown as a kept woman involved in white slavery. They also banned her singing the suggestive (and funny) "A Guy What Takes His Time." Although the Production Code had predated West, her screen persona and popularity spurred the formation of the Catholic Legion of Decency, which became a powerful force for repressing freedom of expression for decades. Tellingly, John Wayne's films, despite their violence, never faced censorship issues like West's pictures did.

Artistic freedom has long been perceived as a threat. In 5th-century BC Athens, Plato, writing his *Republic*, warned of the dangers music posed to citizens, because it appealed to emotions, rather than intellect, and outlined a society of rigid controls. Today, censorship advocates invoke different reasons for their insistence on determining what adults watch, read, or hear. As *Forbidden Films* makes clear, their arguments should be greeted with skepticism. ▼

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Bye-bye, Capeside

A fond farewell to 'Dawson's Creek'

by David Lamble

Last night for the 128th and last time, Joey Potter (Katie Holmes) and Dawson Leery (James Van Der Beek) fought over their relationship; Jack McPhee found a boyfriend who won't be so easily discarded, whose very identity was one of TV's longest-running bad jokes; a character died; and everybody else was five years older and finally acting like adults. Yes, *Dawson's Creek*, a show that elevated teenage melodrama and set new standards for sexual candor and new lows for emotional bombast, has run its course.

The kids of the *Creek* were insanely gorgeous, had the uncanny articulation of Harvard post-grad fellows and wardrobes only affordable at a TV network. But in the end, all that talk added up to something: a gay male character who was not just tolerated, but really accepted as one of the gang by his peers. Story lines dealt realistically with dating, religion, sexual abstinence, sexual overload, teen suicide, rave culture, bad drug trips, bad parents, no parents, surrogate parents, plans for the future, panic and hopelessness about the future. *Dawson's Creek* also had the peculiar tradition of ripping off the plots of pop movies to give the characters a week off from their normal everyday anxieties (the best was a *Dawson's Creek* parody of *The Perfect Storm*).

I was a late arrival to the *Creek*, but when I finally got hooked, I realized that, for me, each episode in the mythical Capeside, Mass. was like a time-capsule trip back to Long Beach, Long Island, where, as a terminally naive and poverty-stricken outsider, I somehow found myself hanging with the popular kids, who accepted me the way Dawson's gang accepts Jack. There were no words for coming out in those days, but if I could have uttered the words, I might have safely spoken them there.

Beyond slashers

A skinny, brown-haired girl and a blonde boy with hair and fashion issues lay on the small bed in his room. Joey and Dawson are born this moment, in front of our eyes, from the head of a boobtube Zeus: Kevin Williamson, whose prior talent was a knack for writing scary teen-slasher movies. The date is January 27, 1998, as *Dawson's Creek* debuts on the WB network, dubbed "The Frog" by its creators, lusting for the 15-to-19-year-old audience.

In this first episode, Joey informs Dawson that their decade-long habit of movie sleepovers will have to end now that he has "genitalia." No sooner has Joey got a grip on her tomboy chastity than a blonde bombshell of a "bad" girl, one Jen Lindley, arrives in Capeside to cool off at the home of her devoutly religious grandmother. At breakfast, Jen informs "Grams" that she's an atheist. Meanwhile, Pacey Witter, Dawson's best male bud, has an epiphany in the form of his Ann-Margret clone of a high school teacher. Joshua Jackson, playing Pacey, gave a hint of the stir Dawson's would cause in this barb for *Entertainment Weekly*: "It's gonna shock the shit out of people when I sleep with my English teacher."

On a show where virgins ques-



A pensive Jack (Kerr Smith) finally finds a non-discardable boyfriend.

tion platonic boyfriends about when they "walked their dog," you knew the day was not far off when somebody would crash through the closet. Two events set the stage for the "outing" of Jack McPhee, played by the model-handsome Kerr Smith: the murder of Matthew Shepard, along with the prodding of his LA neighbor Ellen DeGeneres, prompted Williamson to come out, and to write a two-part episode with gay writer Greg Berlanti.

Williamson and Berlanti engineer Jack's ordeal as a kind of mock execution of his straight identity. A poem he writes for the class run by a monster of an English teacher, the oddly queeny Mr. Peterson (played with wit, spunk and venom by veteran character Edmund Kearney), causes Jack to break down in tears. When Jack flees the room to Peterson's withering scorn, Pacey picks up reading the poem. All along we've sensed that the scene is really a battle of wills between Pacey and Peterson, with Jack's humiliation almost an afterthought. Peterson demands that Pacey stop reading the poem, and Pacey, in one of the most startling acts of violence I've witnessed on the small screen, spits in Peterson's face, provoking a school crisis that amplifies Jack's personal crisis.

Jack's bruising outing, including a knock-down, drag-out fight with his cold, homophobic father, set the stage for a truly remarkable evolution for a gay character. Jack makes mistake after mistake. His first is to cling to his basic jock identity. The boy even joins a meatball college fraternity, losing a very sweet boyfriend in the process.

But what over-the-air drama gave us an authentic non-cute meet between a jock and a Queer Nation lad? What show developed a non-fag-hag relationship between a gay guy and female friend? Instead of being a nagging undertow against the needs of his gay identity, Jen (magnificently played by Michelle Williams) actually pushes Jack into the confusing maelstrom of dating guys.

In one of the series' best scenes, Jen, who has encouraged Jack to date Tobey, a pushy, insecure activist who taunts Jack politically as a way of testing his suitability as a lover, challenges

Tobey to stop trying to bully Jack into either commitment or flight. "Tobey, I know you like Jack, why else would you have gone so far out of your way to be mean to him tonight? And why would you have invented this fictional boyfriend? I mean, come on, a James Dean clone with an award-winning poet lesbian for a mom. It's too good to be true. When you dream, you dream big. My advice would be, if you are interested in Jack, the best way to get into his life is to be his friend, and that requires being nice. Now, this may be a new concept to you, but I think you might find it effective."

Tobey laughs, "You are such a bitch."

"Thought I'd get ya." ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Generation Queer II

You might have thought that old debate over "queer" versus "gay" had gone away, and that "gay" had triumphed as the less contentious, safer of the two terms — the one you use in proper company, when you're not slumming with artists and Euro-trash. If that's your belief system, watch out: your pretty gay bubble is about to burst once more.

On Saturday, May 31, a stampede of artists proudly and loudly declaring themselves "queer" will be taking over the The Center and a host of other arts and cultural venues to present the "National Queer Arts Festival 2003." Women will be taking the lead, both in the number of performances presented and in the organization of the event under the auspices of the **Queer Cultural Center (Qcc)**, but make no mistake: the effort represents the prevailing sentiments of a young generation of LGBTQ performers who boldly embrace the "queer" moniker even if doing so means stepping on mainstream gay toes.

The festival kicks off at The Center with a big opening night GAY-la dubbed "The Q Ball," which opens with a visual spectacular. Throughout the building, works by the Point Blank Photographer's Group (Dusty Lombardo, Rebecca Mc Bride, Cara Gurney) will document the queer communities in which they live and the surroundings they call home. In Room 301, the great imagist Rudy Lemcke will unveil a large-screen video installation, offering a cycle of five short works in his inimitable style. The reception for these artists takes place from 6-7:30 p.m.

At 7:30p.m., the gala shifts to the Rainbow Room where a smorgasbord of performances from past and present NQAFs will take place, hosted by spoken-word diva Sini Anderson. Among other performance perks, you'll get a to sample the lesbian Latina-flavored comedy of Marga Gomez (flava), Monica Palacios (spice) and Carmelita Tropicana (juice). They will be regaling folks with "Comedy, Por Favor!" at SomArts Theater (934 Brannan St.) from June 12-15. These crazy caliente mamacitas tap their Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican and Gemini heritages to serve up riotous laughs.

Among the countless offerings in store for the entire month of June are "Three Sheets to the Wind" by Murray Hill & the Wau-Wau Sisters, doing shtick and death-defying trapeze routines in skimpy outfits (June 26, 27); the Joe Goode Performance Group (June 19-29); New York's LAVA in a "High Tide" of acrobatic dancing and singing (June 26-29); the 2nd annual "Queer-A-Palooza & Drag King Junior Contest" (June 1); a night of dance, trapeze theater, and mixed-media performance by Dominique Zeltzman & Beth Lisick and Tara Jensen (June 5-7); the broTHERs "Taking It to the Street" with sketches, poems and monologues (June 8); and the runaway hit "Fresh Meat," a multimedia extravaganza (June 20-22).

More information on the NQAF will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead as the program progresses. Meanwhile, for details and tickets, call 334-0722 or visit www.queercultural-center.org ▼

Fr

'Breasts of Tiresias' @ Goat Hall

Goat Hall Productions presents two gems of the chamber opera repertoire: *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* (The Breasts of Tiresias), performed in English, music and libretto by Francis Poulenc, directed by Vicky Holder, music direction by Mark Alburger. This 1944 opera in two acts, based on a Dada play by Apollinaire, offers a mad burlesque on the Greek myth of the bi-gendered Tiresias. Also: *Riders to the Sea*, music and libretto by Ralph Vaughan Williams, a co-production with Solo Opera, directed by Sylvia Amorina, music direction by Monroe Kanouse, a tragic snapshot of one Irish family and the sons and brothers they lose to the cruel, seductive, indifferent sea. \$20 (\$15 senior/student). 8pm. Also on May 17 (8pm) & 18 (7pm). 400 Missouri St. (at 19th St.). Tix/info: 289-6877; www.goathall.org

'Dead Heads' @ Jon Sims Center

JSC/Alchemy Productions presents Joe Besecker's *Dead Heads*, directed by Jeffrey Hartgraves. It's a black comedy set in the Lower Polk, based on a crime committed in the mid 1990s involving faded porn actor Tim. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. Thru May 25. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'Laramie Project' @ Harbor Theatre

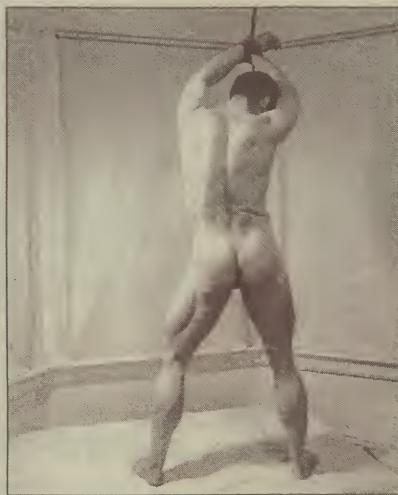
In Suisun: Solano College Theatre presents *The Laramie Project*, a poignant, heart-breaking journey through the life and death of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man beaten and left to die near Laramie, Wyoming in 1998. The play resulted from the Tectonic Theatre Project's interviews with townspeople. Directed by Hector Correa. \$25 opening night (a benefit for the Solano Pride Center, including reception); other nights \$14-\$23 (\$10 students/kids). 7:30pm Wed & Thu; 8pm Fri & Sat; 2pm Sun. 720 Main St., Suisun (midway between SF and Sacramento). Tix/info: 707-864-7011.

'dance TO music' @ 848 Community Space

Following the long tradition of experimentation at 848 Community Space, a new performance of fully, consciously improvised music and dance. Darren Johnson and Sonya Smith explore the lively interaction of trumpet and dancer. Mary Ann Brooks engages voice and body, meeting the challenge of dancing TO the music. Presented by 848 and CounterPULSE. \$10 (NOTAFLOP). 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Info: Sonya Smith, 706-9535; email Sonya@848.com; www.848.com

'Meeting Men' @ AHP Services Center

Workshop: "Meeting Men — Where to Go, How to Be Successful," sponsored by REACH, a prevention program of the UCSF AIDS Health Project. Find out where to go to meet people, and what to do once you get there. Secrets of being suc-



Sketch male nudes at the Mark I. Chester studio. Enjoy the company of leather/bondage fans. See Saturday.

cessful. Free. Space limited. 6:30-9:30pm. 1930 Market St. RSVP: 476-6448, ext. 1.

'American Buffalo' @ Omnicircus Theatre

Subterranean Shakespeare revives its 1999 production of *American Buffalo* by David Mamet. Written in a real-time plot line, this play should be seen in the environment where one has the feeling of uneasiness and danger that the play portrays. \$15 (\$10 student/senior). 8pm Fri/Sat; 7pm Sun. Thru June 15. 550 Natoma (btwn 6th & 7th, Mission & Howard; entrance on Russ). Tix: 701-0686.

'Manifest' @ El Teatro de la Esperanza

"Manifest: The Battle of Intergalactic Forces," a Sin-O-Magic Comedy about the Dangers of Free Will in SF, featuring an original Funky BreakBeat score by Das Energi. PLUS Special Guest Artists Tara Brandel and Tanya Calamoneri & Damon Smith (May 16); and Lea Mind Bender & Charlie Adams in "Mission to Mars" (May 17). \$12-20 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm (house opens 7pm). 2940 16th, 2nd Floor (across the hall from Luna Sea, btwn Mission and South Van Ness. Tix/info: 285-5275

Tittillation Theatre @ Climate Theatre

Tittillation Theatre presents "Let's Not Pretend I'm Not Your Mother," written and directed by Jennifer Hotchner, an array of daring vignettes that broaden the scope of the sexual mind. Theatrical cabaret with poetic dialogue played out by four women and one man. \$20 (\$30 couples; \$35 menage a trios). 9:30pm Fri-Sat. Thru June 21. 285 9th St. (at Folson). Tix/info: 364-1411; www.climatetheatre.com

Garrin Benfield @ Kimo's

He's going electric tonight, providing queer deadheads and others a place to hang and listen to groovy tunes. His music keeps getting better and better. \$5. 9pm. 1351 Polk St. Info: garrin.com

'Cheap Trick' @ The Stud

Special guests the Paradise Boys (who opened for The Rapture at the Great Ameri-

can Music Hall last Tuesday) jam live at "Cheap Trick," a night of electro, rock, funk, oldschool, and pop with DJs Big Red, Monkeyboy, and Adrian & the Mysterious D. 10pm-4am. 9th & Harrison. Info: clubcheaptrick.com

Ggreg's queer bonfire @ Ocean Beach

Join celebrante Ggreg Taylor and a hundred or so of his fag/dyke friends for a romp around the bonfire. Bring blankets, marshmallows, friends. 8:30pm-midnight-ish. End of Fulton St., a little to the south. Info: ggreg.com

Sat

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance @ 111 Minna

GAPA (the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance) hosts "15 Years of Community," the group's 15-year anniversary awards dinner and fundraiser. Presenting the annual "Godzy" (lavender Godzilla) Award, surprise guests, silent auctions and raffle prizes. Honoring the National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) and transgender activist Tita Aida from the Asian & Pacific Islander Well-



Patrick Michael, Dukeman Daniel Howard, Trauma Flintstone and Jeff Manabat play in *Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly* at NCTC. See Saturday.

ness Center. Featuring the GAPA Gay Men's Chorus and Mr. & Ms. GAPA 2002. Co-chairs Kevin Jim and Vincent Baduel invite and encourage all members, supporters, and friends of the gay and bisexual API community to attend. \$60 members/supporters; \$70 guests/non-members. 6-9pm. 111 Minna St. Info: email GAPA15@gapa.org; www.gapa.org

Grand Opening @ Solano Pride Center

"Coming Out Of The Closet," the grand opening/open house of the Solano Pride Center, serving the GLBTQ community of Solano County. Open to the public; take a peak at the center and speak with board members, staff and group facilitators. Light food and refreshments served. Free. 1-5pm. 1125 Missouri St., Suite 208, Fairfield. Info: 707-427-2356.

SF Bay Blades @ Lake Merritt, Oakland

San Francisco Bay Blades, Northern California's only LGBT rowing club (currently a subgroup within the Lake Merritt Rowing Club in Oakland), seeks rowers and scullers, coxswains and coaches. Come for a nice row, and potluck brunch afterwards. Some members compete in the Gay Games and in various local and out-of-state rowing competitions. Others take part in more casual rowing get-togethers. Membership is \$50 for those joining in January-June, and \$25 for those joining in July-December.



Eileen Meredith and Ken Berry star in Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" at Goat Hall. See Friday

ber. Hands-on is at 9:15am at the LMRC Boathouse, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. Info: Eric at 510-839-5484, or Hizam at 415-285-1202; www.sfbayblades.org

'Photo Shoot' @ Marlana's

Are you ready for your close-up? Mr. Hayes Valley Leather, Mike Dumont, invites you to a "Photo Shoot." Come as you've always wanted to be photographed — in drag, in leather, in...? Photography by Bruce Meisner. Receive a professional JPEG photo for use on your web page (prints extra). Special performance by Cher-a-Little Smith as Norma Desmond. Proceeds benefit Metropolitan Community Foundation Charities. \$20. 8-11pm. 488 Hayes St. Info: 864-6672.

'Unfurling Pride' @ The Center & Main Library Hormel Center

Opening: "Unfurling Pride: Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag Turns 25," an exhibit at two sites: The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center at the SF Main Public Library (3rd floor), and the LGBT Community Center of SF (1800 Market St., 1st floor). Sponsored by Baker and curated by the Museum for GLBT History, "Unfurling Pride" looks at how the rainbow flag came to be what it is today. The two exhibition sites will feature segments of original pride flags sewn by Baker, as well as posters Baker designed for the key SF Pride marches of 1978 and 1979. Photos will document how Baker put together and prepared the mile-long flag for New York's Stonewall 25 celebration in 1994, and his even more ambitious Sea-to-Sea flag project now taking shape. Experience rainbow flags of all shapes and sizes, along with rainbow hats, pins, t-shirts, beads, magnets, candles, pens, and leis, etc. Through July 17. Info: www.glbthistory.org

'When Pigs Fly' @ NCTC

Opening night: New Conservatory Theatre Center's *Pride Season 8* presents the Bay Area premiere of *Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly*, an award-winning gay musical review conceived by Howard Crabtree and Mark Waldrop, with sketches and lyrics by Waldrop and music by Dick Gallagher. Directed and choreographed by Earl Weaver. Music direction by George Quick. A high-school career counselor tells young Crabtree he should get over the theater and get a real job.



Castles in Spain, led by vocalist Biachi, play the Bottom of the Hill BBQ. See Sunday.

He'll succeed, she opines, "when pigs fly." \$38 opening & post-show reception; \$18-\$28 other nights. 8pm Wed-Sat; 2pm Sun. Thru June 28. 25 Van Ness. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'Thrive' @ The Center
"Thrive," a coffee and conversation social for HIV+ men breaking the chains of isolation. Thriving in SF is a breakthrough new group of gay men living with HIV who are tired of the isolation associated with the disease and have come together to form innovative events and activities. All HIV+ men invited. Free. 1-3pm. SF LGBT Community Center Coffee House, First Floor, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia).

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano
Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano holds its spring picnic this afternoon at Glen Park. All gay men in the Bay Area welcome to attend this potluck. Info/ride coordination: Al at 861-4270.

'Leather Sketch' @ Chester Studio
Mark I. Chester presents "Leather Sketch," male figure drawing with a leather/bondage bent. Open to sketchers of all skill levels. RSVP/info: 621-6294; mcheester.best.vwh.net

DOD 'Divination Fest' @ Fort Mason
Thalassa and Daughters of Divination (DOD) present "Divination Fest!" Workshops, exhibits, and presentations exploring divination with Tarot, Palmistry, Runes, Crystals and more. Special guest James Wanless, creator of Voyager Tarot. Gentlemen can be Daughters too. Those who join DOD (\$25) get discounts to the Tarot Rumba Lounge salons, three issues of *The Belfry*, and the opportunity to join or create your own secret society, infernal cabal, esoteric order, splinter group, apostasy, sub-sect, schism or Mystery School. Established societies include The Millard Fillmore Memorial Spiritualist Society; WWKD (What Would Kali Do?); The Honourable Order of St. Crispin & the Burning Crunchberry Bush, among many others. The DOD currently offer two doctorates: Doctor of Cheese-balloogy (DCh), and Professor of Soapflakery (PSf). \$50 adv; \$60 door (\$40/\$50 for DOD members). 10am-4:30pm. Firehouse Bldg., Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 753-5041; www.daughtersofdivination.com; www.thalassaland.com

Sun 18

Castles in Spain @ Bottom of the Hill
San Francisco and Portland

share similar indie music scenes, especially when it comes to rock bands led by strong, dynamic women. So it's no surprise that SF's ethereal prog-rockers Castles in Spain—who have just released their new album, *Nu-mero Trés*—are teaming up for a show with Portland's Captain Rock and Susie Blue, two of that city's finest female-fronted rock bands. Lea Krueger opens. This is the Bottom of the Hill's first barbeque show of the year! \$6 includes all-you-can-eat BBQ. 5pm. 1233 17th St. @ Texas.

'Hubbub' @ Hyena Playhouse
Holy Titclamps presents "Hubbub: Queer Spoken Word," hosted by Larry-bob (editor/publisher of *Holy Titclamps* and "Queer Things To Do In San Francisco"). Featuring seelye quest, "an Oakland 26 yr old white queer crip gender traitor broke dancer, choreographer, clown, stripper, singer, performance artist, writer and organizer," and John Tunui, "who grew up listening to stories told by the orators of the village in the Cook Islands... His novel is excerpted in several anthologies, and his poems are anthologized in *Mecca*, *UTOPIA* and *Moana*. He is a member of the multicultural writers' collective Dhaia Tribe." Open mic follows. \$3 donation (NO-TAFLOR). Signup at 2:30; reading at 3pm. Hyena Playhouse, 2390 Mission Street, Suite #10 (basement, elevator accessible. If gate is locked, go around to the side). Info: holytitclamps.com/hubbub/

Mon 19

Spencer Day @ Plush Room
You've heard him solo or with his jazz combo entertaining the cocktail crowd at the Lush Lounge, the dinner crowds at Mecca and Cosmopolitan Café, the North Beach crowd at Enrico's, and of course he was a finalist and one of the first adult vocalists in the new CBS *Star Search*. If you've been extra lucky, you've caught one of his wild and crazy "Crimson Club" cabaret shows at the Stud and



Jazz sensation Spencer Day lights up the Plush Room. See Monday.

elsewhere. Now hear vocalist, piano player, composer and band leader Spencer Day in his best environment, playing all week with his full band at the elegant Plush Room, the city's finest jazz lounge. \$20 plus 2-drink minimum. 8pm. Thru May 25. York Hotel. 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 885-2800; www.plushroom.com

'3D Dyke Drama Days' @ Theatre Rhinoceros
As part of its 25th anniversary season, Theatre Rhino introduces a new playreading series to the Studio: "3D, Dyke Drama Days," May 19-22. Free admission to staged readings of new lesbian plays, for, by and about women. But men are welcome! Tonight: "Girls Room" by Lori Kaye, directed by Gemma Whelan (chair of Mills College Theatre Dept.). It's a comedy about coming out in middle-age, complicated by a 20th high school reunion, stand-up comedy, and a very straight, conservative Jewish mother. Followed by Q&A. Free. 6pm. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

Intersection's 38th Birthday Party
In the early 1960s Intersection for the Arts was established by a group of artists, community activists, and progressive ministers in the North Beach neighborhood as a meeting place for the entire community, a place for dialogue stimulated and generated by the arts. Join them for an interactive forum to celebrate. Bring any stories, memories, artifacts, objects, materials that you have in relation to Intersection over the years. 7pm. 446 Valencia St. Info: 626 2787; www.theintersection.org

'Celebration of the Buddha' @ MCC-SF
Q-Sangha, the new Buddhist ministry of the Metropolitan Community Church, presents "Wesak: A Celebration of the Buddha and Queer Embodied Spirituality" with sacred chanting, joyful singing, inspiring music, healing meditation, mindful movement, soulful words, and candlelight blessings in honor of the Enlightened Mind, Awakening Heart and Transformative Body of our Queer Community. Expecting 150 persons. Donation. 7-9pm (doors open at 6:30pm). MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St. (at 18th/19th St. in The Castro). Info: 865-2750; www.QSangha.org

Tue 20

'Trannyshack' @ The Stud
The Alister Crowley High School for the Performing Arts presents it's Spring Prom, titled "Black Celebration," hosted by Valedictorian Peaches Christ. Heklina is still

out of town, so enjoy the vacation! DJ Pinky Ring spins. Miss Chocolate hostesses. \$6. 10pm-late (show at midnight). 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.heklina.com

Writing workshop @ Intersection

"Tools of the Trade," a writing workshop with Resident Writer Truong Tran, the second of three intensives designed as a comprehensive exercise guiding all levels of writers through conceptual issues and aesthetic concerns of content, form, editing and presentation. \$25-\$50 sliding. 8pm (also on May 25 at 2pm). Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Info/registration: 626-2787; www.theintersection.org

Wed 21

'Polka Hall of Fame' @ Escape from NY Pizza

Grand opening: "San Francisco Style Polka Hall of Fame" (SFSPHOF), featuring an exhibit at the Castro Street branch of Escape from New York Pizza. A special bratwurst pizza will be served. Following in the grand tradition of local polka halls of fame in Cleveland and Chicago, this exhibit pays tribute to the SF-style of polka, which differs from others in that it throws out tradition and drags in every other musical genre, including rock, jazz, C&W, punk and pop. Founding members include Big Lou's Polka Casserole, Polkacide, and the Squeegees. This year's inductees are Brave Combo (Denton, TX) and The Polkaholics (Chicago). 10am. 508 Castro St. Info: Big Lou at 468-5986 (eves & Fri.); www.accordjonprincess.com

Thu 22

Mattilda @ Books Inc.
Matt Bernstein Sycamore, aka Mattilda, the notorious performance artist and Gay Shame activist, reads from his fabulous new novel *Pulling Taffy*, a must-read if you're at all attuned to the shamelessly self-indulgent, oddly constructed, but wildly entertaining new wave of queer writing. Of course it's causing major waves — it's Mattilda! Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. (at 16th St.). Info: 864-6777.

Samuel Delaney @ Modern Times Books
Science fiction master Samuel Delaney's new novel *Nova* (Vintage) tells the story of Lorg von Ray, an intrepid spaceship captain determined to travel through the core of a recently imploded sun. Delaney is recognized as one of the queerest and most brilliant science fiction writers ever. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 282-9246

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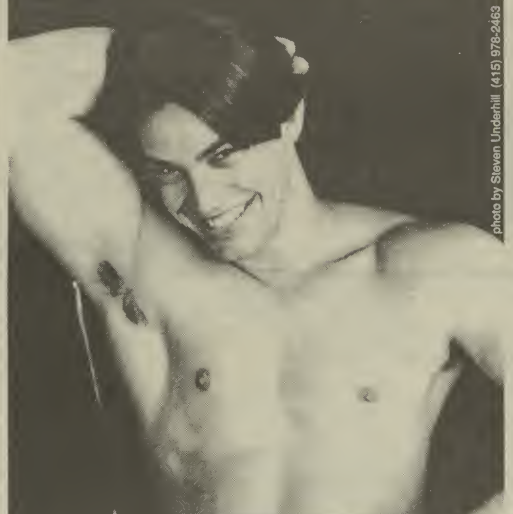


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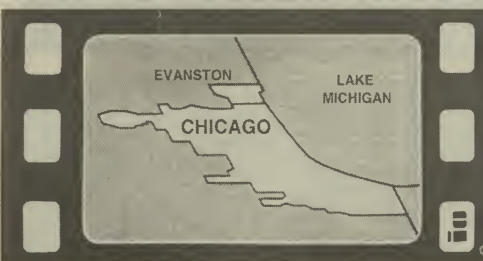
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Myhand prevails

Meet the new hottie at the Triple R

by Mister Marcus

The ambience was anything but calm last Saturday night, May 10 at the Russian River Resort (Triple R) in Guerneville as the 9th Annual Mr. Triple R Leather 2003 contest opened with La Snatch and the two contestants cavorting on the stage with a romp through raunch and mayhem. The wall-to-wall audience was entranced at the debut of the Empress of San Francisco making a bawdy presentation that had the locals stomping for more. There were many local women in attendance. The San Francisco Leather Dyke Family made an appearance with their newly chosen Dyke Diva Sh'Diva and Dyke Daddy Jay.

Emcees Lenny Broberg and T. Jay Cain made no excuses or apologies as they pulverized each other and everyone else with verbal assaults that had the audience roaring with delight. The two contestants (Damian "Rocky" Horton and Michael Myhand) went through the usual paces with an afternoon interview with the judges. It was an enlightening experience for me to judge with "Mama" Reinhardt and outgoing Mr. Triple R Leather Scot Howard. Last year, Scot won the title and then went on to win the North Coast Leather sash and will be competing at IML next week in Chicago.

The on-stage question and answer period, the short speech and the jock/physique segments came off without a hitch and the audience was enthusiastic and supportive. The combination of raffle tickets sold by the contestants and another one by the River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence garnered more than \$4,000 for local charities.

Some hilarious moments were scattered throughout the evening, and it was almost 2300 when the



Michael Myhand, a massage therapist in Guerneville, captured the Mr. Triple R Leather title last Saturday, May 10 and advances to compete at the North Coast Leather contest later this year, and a chance to compete at International Mister Leather 2004.

results were tallied by Dan Alexander. The new Mr. Triple R Leather 2003 is Michael Myhand. No stranger to sashdom, Michael has won many leather titles in the past including International Mr. Bear. He advances to compete for the Mr. North Coast Leather contest later this year.

It was a great weekend at the river and everyone came away with a sense of fulfillment, knowing leather is alive and well in Guerneville.

IML 2003 gets closer

Even as you read this, hordes of leather people throughout the

known world are gearing up for Memorial Day weekend in Chicago when the 25th anniversary of the world's biggest leather competition will unfold. Know that San Francisco's leather community will be there in full force with a hospitality suite (Room 16-276) and several events planned therein.

At least nine of the 2004 *Bare Chest Calendar* men will be on hand in the leather mart when next year's edition makes its debut for the entire leather world to see. A send-off party for our entry, Troy Anicete, will take place at 2100 tomorrow night, Friday, May 16 at the Powerhouse.

In addition, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Mike Dumont, Mr.

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, May 16-18

South Central Leather Sir/Boy contests at the Dallas Eagle with a meet & greet on Friday, contest on Saturday. The winner advances to the International Leather Sir/Boy in St. Petersburg, Florida in Oct.

The Eulenspiegel Society in New York City presents TES Fest with vendors, workshops, dungeon parties and 24-hour access to Paddles. For more info, click on www.fetishmarathon.com.

Friday, May 16

Send-off party for Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete who competes at IML in Chicago next weekend. Raffles, date auctions, beer/soda bust to benefit the SF Boys of Leather. It all starts at 2100. Be there! Exiles of SF monthly gathering with Cleo Dubois expounding on "The Magic of Play Piercing". Doors open 1930, program at 2000. \$6 for guests, \$3 for members. Parking almost impossible.

Saturday, May 17

It's US Armed Forces Day. There's a uniform party at Daddy's from 1600 to 1900 to benefit SLDN. In Hayward, the ACLC presents "Don't Ask, Just Tell!" at the Turf Club from 1500 to 1900. Uniform wear is encouraged.

Tuesday, May 20

Richie, who boot blacks at Daddy's and the Powerhouse, is San Francisco's entry in the International BootBlack competition in Chicago during IML weekend. It's a good luck/send off party for him at Daddy's tonight from 2000-2300. See you there!

Wednesday, May 21

If you've got it flaunt it, but if you flaunt it, expect to have it trashed, so exercise caution when you attend Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open 2100-2300. Freak freely and frequently.

Also, the Leathermen's Discussion Group presents Steve Gaynes for their monthly gathering speaking on "Cigars and Cigar Play" and all the kinky stuff that can happen while puffing away on a stogie. Hear it all beginning at 1930.

Weekend, May 22-26

International Mr. Leather 2003 weekend in Chicago with all sorts of activities including the Mr. Ebony in Leather Contest in the host Palmer House Hotel on Friday; Pecs and Personality on Saturday, the 25th annual contest on Sunday and parties galore. Rooms are still available at the hotel and if you're a contestant and have not yet sent in your application form(s), shame on you!

Wednesday, May 28

SM 101 tonight, with Glenn Baird expounding on Play Piercing at the Powerhouse. Call them for details.

Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison and if you don't know the rules for this gathering call 777-HEAD. Strictly leather, no cologne. This means you!

Sunday, June 1

Ray Tilton celebrates his 49th birthday at Daddy's today (or at least he says he's 49!). Details coming.

POLKSTRASSE

Happenings in the 'hood

by Sweet Lips

Yes, I am back working the early shift at Kimo's on Saturday and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Be kind to me, because I'm still healing from my recent mishap with the plumbing.

Speaking of Kimo's, how about that new young bartender Tyler has hired! He's so young, I'm three times his age! Twenty-five-year-old Stephen Torres works mornings. He's nice and very attractive, so drop in for a cocktail with him. He makes mean chocolate vodka martinis!

The Lush Lounge family has

purchased Reflections, and I can't wait to see what those talented people do to it. I just hope they don't take out the back bar, as it is a classic.

Well, the Gate Bar is gone, and a new four-story condo is there with full-floor, three-bedroom apartments. The top-floor penthouse is for sale for only \$2,200,000, if anyone would like to buy it for me!

I saw Greta Grass at the Club Rendez-Vous the other day, and she is looking great! Way to go, Greta!

Marlena's at 488 Hayes St. is presenting *Fauxgirls!* every second and fourth Saturday at 10 p.m., hosted by Anjelica Devarox and

Victoria Secret, featuring Donna Rae, Reality, Davida, Mini Minerva and special guest stars. They do their famous "Drag Tag," where audience members join the show, so be prepared to perform! There's never a cover at Marlena's.

The Circle J Cinema at 369 Ellis St. still draws some very interesting people, and they are open until Midnight for you late revelers.

Naomi's Antiques To Go at 1817 Polk St. has terrific American dinnerware and art pottery. Drop on in to get fabulous pieces for gifts. It's a great place for collectors.

Out of the Closet thrift store at Polk and California has a great collection of everything you can imagine, and all for reasonable prices. Your purchases help support nonprofit AIDS service organizations. ▼

Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Alameda County Leather John Grisamore and Mr. North Coast Leather Scot Howard will be there to receive your best wishes for success in Chicago. A beer/soda bust will be available to benefit the SF Boys of Leather, raffles, auctions, etc. Don't miss it!

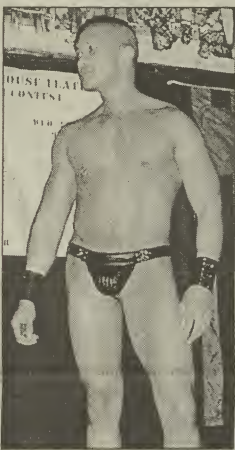
As for the IML contest itself, it looks like the Class of 2003 will fall just short of 60 contestants and the IML staff is ready for the onslaught of leather mavens that will invade Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend. I hope you've made your reservations and are resting up for the madness that will prevail with the competition itself and all the parties scheduled.

Sir/Boy developments

No doubt you already know that since the Mr. Drummer and Boy are no longer on the agenda, it has been replaced by the International Sir and International Boy

titles. The regional sponsors have undergone changes as well. Mike Marino and Connie Cox are now the sponsors of the Northeast Region, and on the West Coast, The Northern California Leather Sir and Boy titles are now sponsored by Roger Jensen of Gotham Piercing both in Guerneville and San Francisco. The Northern California Leather Sir/Boy competition will be held in Guerneville the weekend of August 1-3. Before then, there will be feeder contests in San Francisco, Alameda County, Santa Clara County, Russian River area and whatever other area cares to participate. Rod Wood will produce the SF Leather Sir/Boy contests, but no date has yet been set. For more information, call (707) 869-0432. Email: NoCallLeatherSirandLether-boy@comcast.net.

That's about it for this week, but there's a lot more headed your way. For leather news about communities around the world always click on www.L LeatherPage.com. Stay alert. Keep informed. ▼



Mr. San Francisco Leather 2003 Troy Anicete will host the send-off party at the Powerhouse on Friday, May 16 at 2100. Other Bay Area contestants will join in the send-off.

Dance reviewed

◀ page 32

places, more dynamic physicality, and erotic humor. The cast of six — Melecio Estrella, Gabriel Forestieri, Anke Full, Frieda Kipar, Gitta Sivander and Wells — had obviously spent many hours bouncing off the walls, throwing themselves on each other, and laughing. Again, it was the way that Wells shaped the spectacle of the in-your-face gymnastics that made it art.

Exotic beat

Abstraction is a funny thing. As humans we instinctively search for meaning, whether it is visual, narrative or musical. Modern artists, on the other hand, often ask us to put aside these lowbrow impulses, to resist a desire to understand, and simply to be open to something totally new. Nancy Karp's concert was a case in point.

Her purely abstract dances were fluid, workmanlike compositions, but her program announced a more thematic presentation: "La Traversa" inspired by Sicilian culture, and "Kalasam," suggested by the dance of the Kerala state in India. The marketing implied the exotic — villages in Sicily and Southern India, places Karp spent substantial amounts of time living and working in over the last few years — but the audience was offered a starker, more academic world-view: a modern dance experience.

Imagine Sicily without emotion, India without tablas. The highly detailed program notes informed us of the inspiration behind the purely abstract dances, but that's like a sex partner who lets you in on his fantasies during the act. Better to just do it. Especially when the fantasy world so little resembles the actual.

In "La Traversa," the dancers wore the kind of suits and black

dressers you might find on old men and women of the Sicilian villages from which Karp drew inspiration. The dancing, however, was as American as modern dance — phrases suggested by one dancer, picked up by another, and then seen in various permutations and dynamics, moved through space, added to, developed.

"Kalasam," named after a pattern of dance steps in the Kathakali tradition of Southern India, offered a similar approach to this abstract travelogue: no apparent India, but paragraphs of description, an electronic soundtrack by Paul Drescher featuring a "marimba lumina," and slide projections that offered architectural details. Along with the wash of blazing sun or dark, monsoon colors on the stage, and the movement, which built to a crowded frenzy, here, at least, there was a suggestion of real-world ambience. ▼

Leo Ornstein

◀ page 33

sounds more convincingly like an early craft whizzing through the air. And where Hamelin creates an atmospheric, shimmering diminuendo at the start of the tranquil *Impressions*, sounding as though his piano is shrouded by fog, Weber's diminuendo sounds far

more prosaic. Hamelin also captures perfectly the Asian slant of *A la Chinoise*, a piece written as a musical impression of Ornstein's first visit to San Francisco's Chinatown.

With his music frequently misunderstood, Ornstein pulled back from performing in 1925. Instead, he and his wife established the Ornstein School of Music in Philadelphia, where they taught

through the mid-'50s. Thereafter, Ornstein devoted all his time to composing, completing his last work, the Piano Sonata No. 8, when he was in his late 90s. His son, Severo M. Ornstein, now a resident of Woodside, describes the 8th Sonata recorded by Hamelin as manifesting "fierce vigor and challenging complexity, relieved by moments of startling lyricism." ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Tue. AM 4/15/ SF Bound Bart
You really surprised me with your intense eye-lock as you got off at Fruitvale, I didn't think you had even noticed me. You, with bicycle, bone necklace, short light brown hair. Me, grey-black hair and moustache, blue and white striped shirt with grey hooded sweatshirt. ☎ 72560

IS "Al Yeh" Out There?
Al, you lived in Sunnyvale about 9yrs. ago lost contact w/you. Please call. Hope all is well w/you. ☎ 72566

Lalo On Easter Sun 4/20
We spoke briefly. You: dark hair wearing dark blue shirt. Me: brown hair wearing white t-shirt. I commented on how many people you knew. Would like to meet again. ☎ 72579

Jonathan Laundromat By Badlands
So tell me how do you do? Finally I meet you. So adorably cute, handsome smirk. Waiting and wondering about you. I want to know you. What's your story? L. ☎ 72580

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

•Asian•
Younglooking GAM, 54y.o. 5'7"slim, caring, healthy, seeks older GWM for possible relationship. Enjoy quiet times, cooking, travelling. No smoking. ☎ 72561

Muscular Italian American
44yrs, seeks a smooth, muscular Asian to date on reg. basis. I'm professionally employed cultured, passionate, sincere. Pls, no head games, B/S. ☎ 72567

Good Looking S'Porean
Looking for Asian for friendship. You must be straight looking. I am 50y.o. 5'4". Health conscious. Workout often and in good shape. ☎ 72568

Black Guy 4
37yrs. GBM. Smooth average build, versatile 130lbs. 5'11", looking for same between 30 to 45 for friendship, and more. ☎ 72569

•Husband Hunting•
Monogamous, romantic GWM 54, 6' 200lbs, wants a NS, HIV- STD free, thin, lover/partner. You should like cats and be responsible. ☎ 72570

WLM 47, 6, 165lbs, Moustache...
I'm attracted to senior men who want a lot of affection, kissing, cuddling & oral pleasure. Bearded, hairy, rustic-looking, loner type a plus. Smoking, light drink ok. Not into gay scene. ☎ 72571

~Hairy Muscles Wants Same~
Let's appreciate our hairy masculinity together. I am built, 5'10", 185, 50, HIV+. You have similar stats, over 40, and wild about nips, kissing, 69, JO, body hair. ☎ 72572

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 42, 5'10", 170#, redhair, capricorn. Enjoys drumming, talk radio and outdoors. Mobile home owner, ex-navy, seeking relationship with a woman. ☎ 72581

Wanted-Nice Guy-Gal, L.T.R.
Young thinking G.W.M. 57, 6-1, 198, darkhair and moustache. Wanting soul mate who can communicate. I'm spiritual, easy to get along with, and respectful to others. I like gardening, weekend trips, time at home, dogs, herb, cooking, etc. I'm looking for someone 30's to 40's any race or color, exotic looks and spirit especially encouraged to call. ☎ 72582



Seek LTR Total Top
Attractive healthy AM in excellent shape wants to act bottom, LTR weekly encounters, you: healthy total top, any age/race, N/D, no diseases, Bay Area. ☎ 72583

SEEKING ADVENTURE

WM 40's ISO...
Hungry, hot mouth to empty my balls. No head games, no hassle, just good sucking. Your place, aroma, videos, mirror A+. ☎ 72562

Mature Smokers
WLM 47, 6', 165lbs, moderately hairy. ISO older male who is a regular cigar/cigarette smoker who enjoys deep kissing, affection & oral pleasures. No gay scene or lifestyle. Body type not important. ☎ 72563

Asian For WM or Latin Males
Young cute Asian 5'9"170lbs 30yrs in SJ, smooth body, nice bubble butt. One on one or 3some. Ready to meet hung bi/straight gay males for fun time. ☎ 72564

Your Small Cock In My Hot Mouth
And my average cock in your mouth for some major cock worship. My stats: poz, hairy chest, 5'10", athletic body, middle-age. Prefer hairy chest, similar height, ht/wt proportional, 45+, totally oral. ☎ 72573

Fun Top Seeking
GWM bottom HIV-, 30+prefer 5'5" to 5'8" top 59 GWM HIV- 6'5", 260 love to give pleasure-herb/aroma++. ☎ 72574

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Seeking Very Small Cocks
To take completely into my mouth a/w smooth clean shaven needing hot hungry mouth oral nipple teasing ball licking tongue fucking. ☎ 72586

Personal
GJM into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b worship, drinking/parting, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. Over 21. ☎ 72587

Still Seeking Balls
Long low loose hangers to fondle, kiss, lick, suck w/ince uncircumcised cock to stroke to screaming orgasm w/a smooth clean shaven tongue fuck each other? ☎ 72589

Hairy Little Fuckbuddy Wanted!!!
Hairy muscled tattooed skinned leatherman 5'8", 142# ISO hairy muscled fuckbuddy approx my size. No LTR, just frequent hard rough butt-pounding fun. Healthy poz, you too. ☎ 72592

Your Dick/My Mouth/ No Teeth
Healthy clean senior GW masc. seeks GW masc. guy. ☎ 72585

•Still Seeking Balls•
Long low loose hangers to fondle, kiss, lick, suck w/ince uncircumcised cock to stroke to screaming orgasm w/a smooth clean shaven tongue fuck each other? ☎ 72590

Virgin Ass In Search Of.....
Gentle experienced butt fucker who can enter w/o pain stroke slow and easy ending in a hard fast pounding. ☎ 72585

Novice/curious Nudist(?)
Preferably but not mandatory, hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o. etc. Your place preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups tits, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. Like to explore being nude with another man w/o the pressure of performing in anal/oral manner. ☎ 72588

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Nip Work Drives My Dick Crazy. U2?
Nip pig wants similar buddy for serious nip action. Pluses are healthy poz, tight body, hairy chest, and 40-50yrs old. I am built, hairy, tall, mature, masculine. ☎ 72577

Got Balls?
Looking for some mutual nut for with similar inshape GWM. I am HIV+, nice body, furry, daddy-type. Into weights straps pulling squeezing sucking. I like men with body hair, tall, 40's. ☎ 72578

ISO Serious Nipple Workout Buddy
48yr. old GEWM, stoc 220#, brn, brn, salt & pepper goatee, lat's piercing, smoker serious nip pig looking for a super mass domin. nip pig for heavy wkout with growth in mind! Smoker A+. ☎ 72594

Anyone Out There Into Sheer Socks?
Attractive Latino 36, 5'11" black hair, brown eyes, dark like skin, size 12 shoe, uncut would like to meet Latins or Whites into same Fetish under 40 non smokers only. ☎ 72595

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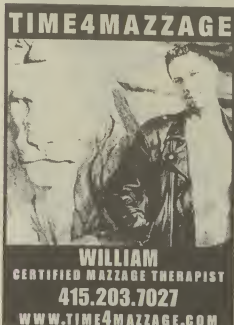
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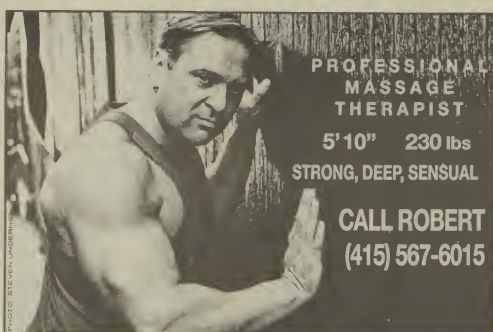
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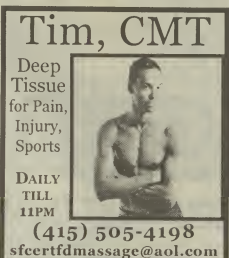
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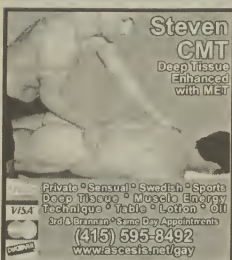
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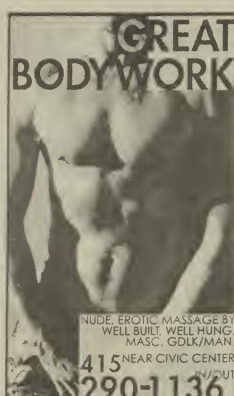
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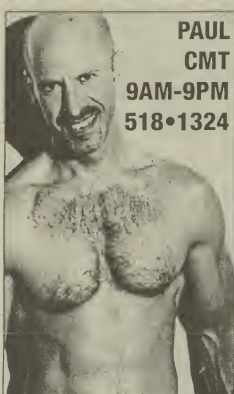
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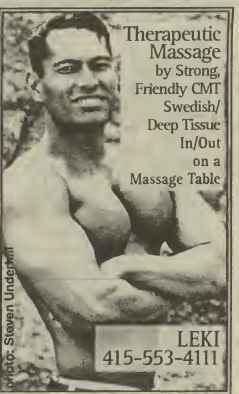
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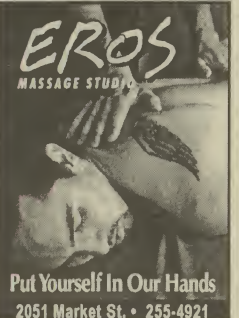
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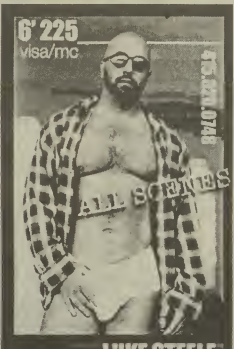
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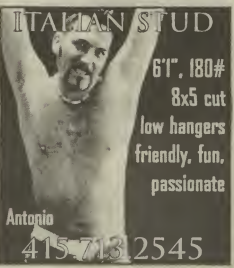
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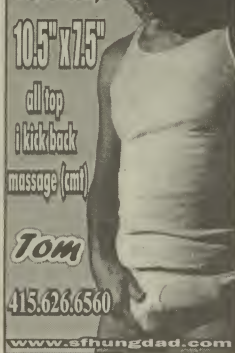
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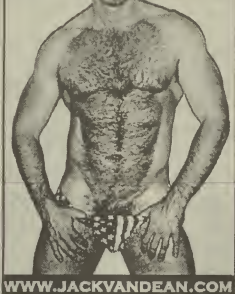
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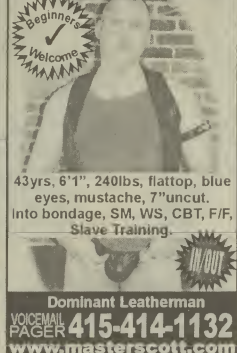
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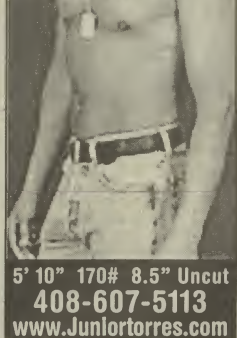
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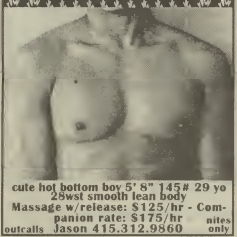
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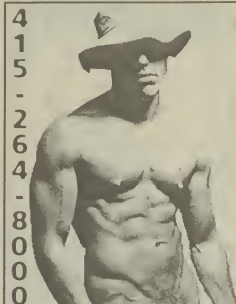
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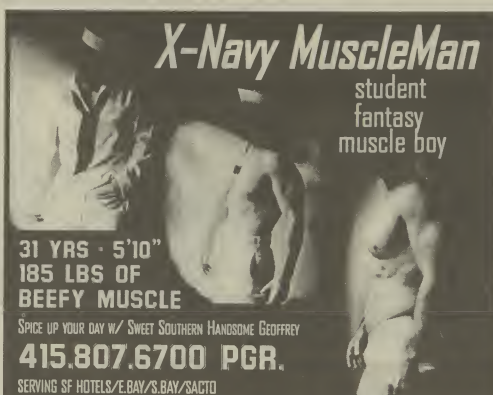
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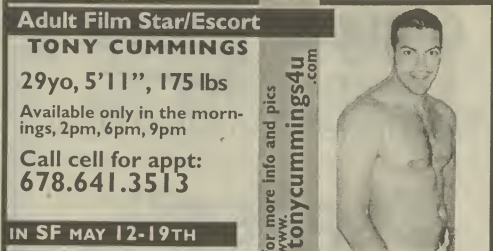
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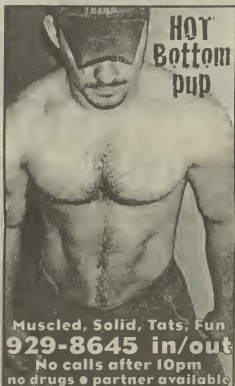
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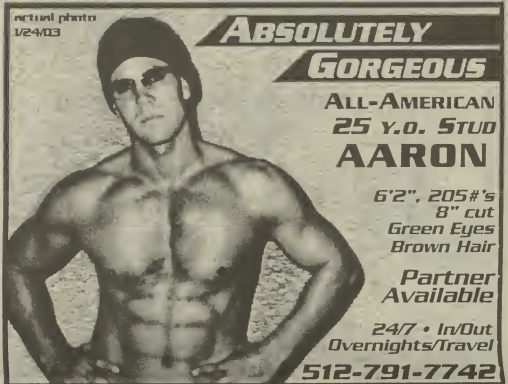


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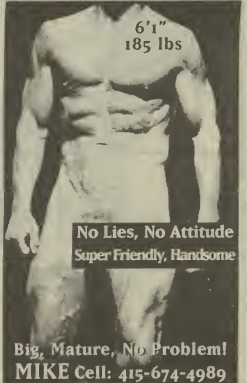
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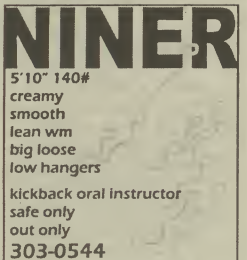
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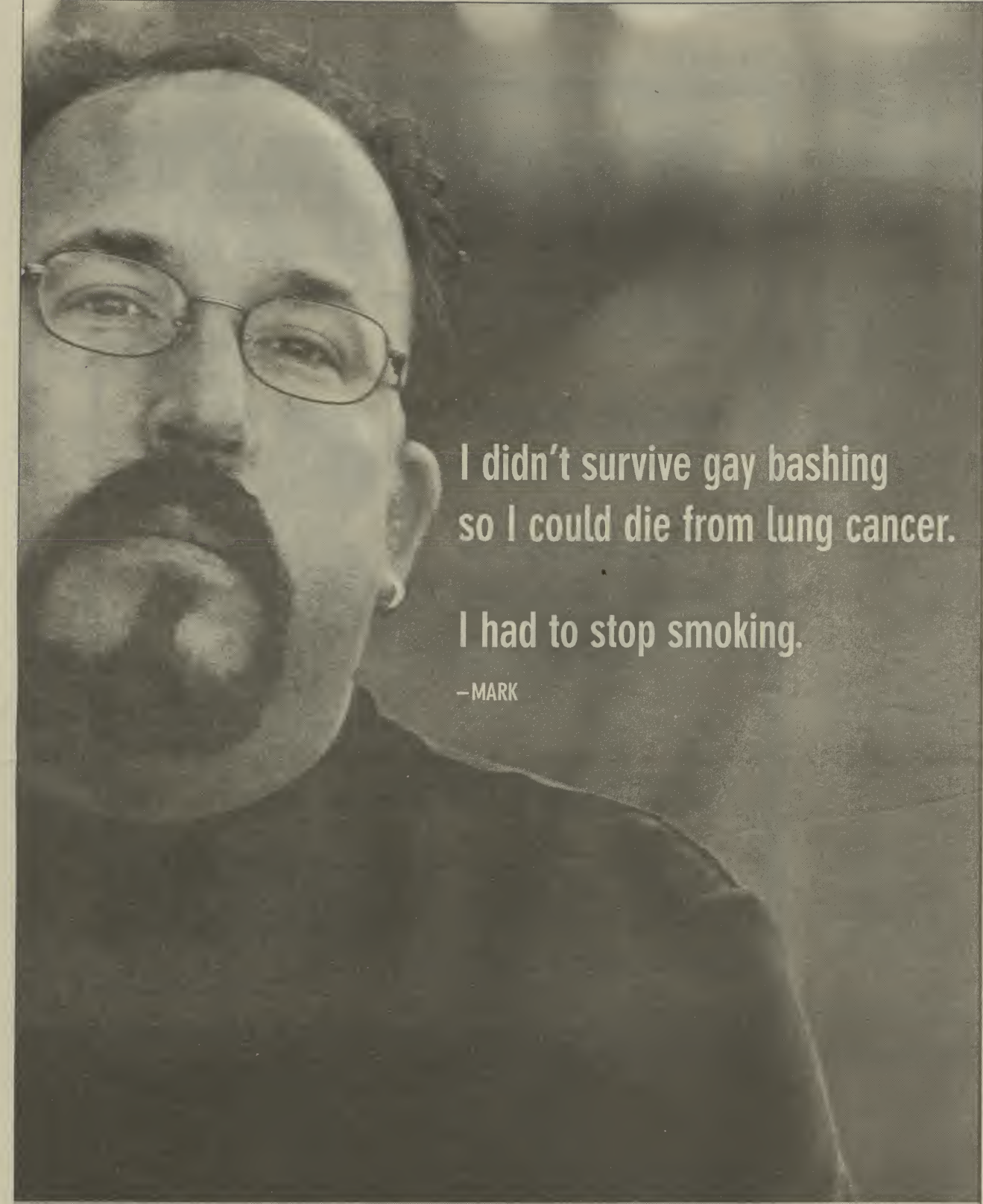
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